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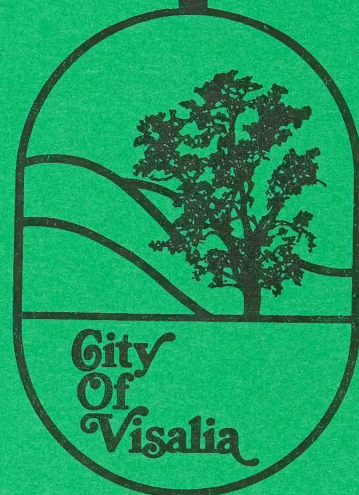
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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Conservation Open Space Recreation Parks

1980 - 1990



An Element of the VISALIA GENERAL PLAN

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PREFACE


The State of California sets forth procedure for preparation of General Plans and their contents. Although several elements comprise a complete General Plan, this document is primarily concerned with Parks and Recreation as the underlying facilitators for implementing the required Open-Space and Conservation Elements of the General Plan.

The California Legislature has identified nine elements (or issues) that it feels every city and county must include in its General Plan: Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space, Seismic Safety, Noise, Scenic Highway and Safety. In addition, jurisdictions may also add optional elements to the basic set of nine State-mandated elements and issues.

Optional Elements, such as Recreation, have the same force and effect as required elements. Their adoption can expand the City's ability to achieve its desired objectives in special areas. For instance, the Quimby Act provision of the Subdivision Map Act authorizes a City or County with an adopted Recreation Element to require park dedications as a condition of subdivision approvals. The adoption of any optional element expands the regulatory authority of the City or County through the requirements that zoning and subdivision be consistent with the General Plan.

The first "Recreation Element and Open-Space Plan" for Visalia was adopted in 1960. This Plan was updated in 1974 and made an Element of the total General Plan. Now, because of policy shifts, adjusted fiscal priorities and striking physical changes within the community, the six year old plan has become outdated. The City of Visalia grew from a population of 27,268 in January, 1970 to 49,548 in 1980, representing a 81.7% increase. During the same period, the number of housing units increased by 103.8%. The average household size decreased from 2.97 in 1970, to 2.69 in 1980. Recent economic studies by Economists Williams-Kuebelbeck and Associates and Gladstone Associates project future growth of Visalia to continue at about the same pace, reflecting populations of 85,000 in 1990 and 142,045 in year 2000. With the prospect of such dynamic change, Visalia can no longer maintain a "wait and see" posture.

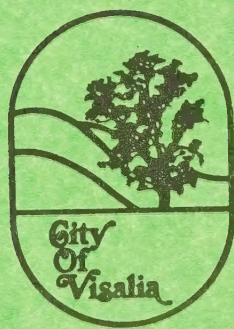
The policies and proposals contained herein reflect the City's desire to promulgate a legacy of quality recreational opportunities through the preservation of natural resources and open-spaces for future generations.



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SECTION 1



INTRODUCTION

CONSERVATION, OPEN SPACE
AND RECREATION ELEMENTS OF THE
GENERAL PLAN

SECTION I
Introduction

A. Authority, Scope and Requirements

California Planning and Zoning Law, requires the planning agency to prepare, and the legislative body of each legislative jurisdiction to adopt a long term comprehensive general plan for the physical development of that jurisdiction. The plan shall also include any land outside the jurisdiction's boundaries which the planning agency feels is vital to its development and planning. The General Plan is composed of nine elements which contain development policies, diagrams, maps, and a text setting forth goals, objectives, principles, and plan proposals.

The complete General Plan is designed to be comprehensive, which means the plan should encompass all geographic parts of the planning area and all physical factors which relate to its physical development. Although each General Plan element is concerned with a different aspect of community interest, all elements included are to be integrated into one comprehensive plan which serves as a cohesive unit. It is thus important that the Conservation, Open Space and Recreation Element be consistent with the policies and proposals of all other adopted elements, and that continued coordination be maintained in order to promote harmony and balance between and among conflicting forces of growth, construction, and development.

B. Factors Considered in Plan

The Conservation, Recreation and Open Space Element of the Visalia General Plan serves to form the framework for park development and use within the City. The element established goals, policies and standards for open space in both newly developing and existing City areas. The conservation and open space elements are mandated by State law Section 65302.

A conservation element for the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources.

Open-Space Lands

"Open-space land" is any parcel or area of land or water which is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open-space use as defined in this section, and which is designated on a local, regional or state open-space plan as any of the following:

- (1) Open space for the preservation of natural resources.
- (2) Open space used for the managed production of resources.
- (3) Open space for outdoor recreation.
- (4) Open space for public health and safety.

The Recreation Element is a permissive, or optional, element of the plan.

Visalia adopted its first conservation, open-space and recreation element in 1974. The element has been outdated by policy shifts and physical changes within the community to the point where it no longer provides guidance in making decisions. The City's population has increased by over 50% since the 1974 element was adopted with park lands increasing almost as rapidly. However, of more importance, the existing element does not adequately address new concepts such as planned unit developments and the whole idea of private open space, or storm water detention systems. Park needs must be identified and then creative ways involving the City as a facilitator must be explored to meet those needs. Certainly the City will continue to play a major role as the builder and operator of open space areas. However, the City should also move more strongly into the area of encouraging private interests to meet identified needs within the policy and physical framework established by this document.

Park and open space standards must meet the basic needs of the residents of Visalia with opportunities then made available to buy into different and more elaborate amenities. In addition, current economic situations make the establishment of new open space systems much more feasible with particular emphasis on more energy efficient systems. This could include bicycle and pedestrian connections to more closely link open space areas and provide corridors throughout the city. It could also include dispersing park sites so that park area is adjacent to and integrated within a new housing areas.

C. Procedure for the Preparation of a Park & Recreation Element.

The State of California requires the preparation and adoption of a General Plan by local governmental agencies, with specific criteria. Section 65300 of the Government Code directs each planning agency to prepare and the legislative body of each city to adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the city and any land outside its boundaries which, in the planning agency's judgement, bears relation to its planning.

The law requires the following procedures be followed during formation and adoption of a element of the General Plan:

1. Local planning agency shall consult and advise with public officials and agencies, public utility companies, civic, educational and professional groups and citizens generally to insure maximum coordination.
2. When considering adoption or amendment of the Element, local jurisdictions are required to refer plans to other abutting jurisdictions.

3. Adoption procedures are to include public hearings by the Park and Recreation Commission, planning commission and local legislative body; approval and endorsement by both commissions; adoption and endorsement by local legislative body.
4. Distribute Plan to jurisdictions which make decisions that effect the community or county.

Following adoption of the Conservation, Open Space and Recreation Element by the legislative body, the planning agency is required to:

1. Investigate and make recommendations regarding implementation programs of the Element.
2. Promote public interest in and understanding of the Plan and regulations.
3. Consult and advise (with others) on ways of carrying out the Plan.
4. Review projects as to conformity with the general plan (all real property acquisitions and dispositions, construction of buildings and other structures) according to the Government Code 65402.
5. Develop and adopt regulatory programs (zoning and subdivision ordinances, building and housing codes and other devices) which will implement the policies described in the Element.

D. Relationship to other General Plan Elements

The Visalia General Plan consists of many elements, each concerned with a different aspect of community interest. Nine elements are mandated by the State, however, local agencies may include optional elements according to their local needs. All elements included are to be integrated into one comprehensive General Plan. It is the intent of the General Plan to provide planning for future growth and change within the community. Each individual element of the plan present specific policies, however, each element must be consistent and serve as a cohesive unit with the other elements to provide an integrated General Plan.

INTERRELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS

In the preparation of this Element, other plans and policies of the City must be considered. Each element of the City's General Plan are related to each other, in that, they provide policies and recommendations concerning the development within the political jurisdiction of the City.

A review of these plans is necessary in order to coordinate policies and prevent conflicts among the elements.

- URBAN BOUNDARY

This General Plan Element will be used as the basis for determination of approval or denial by the City Council, of annexation proposals, rezoning and subdivision activities within a twenty (20) year time frame. The conservation, Open Space and Recreation Element needs to be developed within this planning area.

- LAND USE

The Land Use Element addresses locations for housing, commercial, industry and other uses. The Land Use Element and this Element are closely related in determining future park facilities.

- CIRCULATION

The Circulation Element designates location of major streets and transportation routes. This element is also directly related to the Land Use Element and the Conservation, Open Space and Recreation Element.

- HOUSING

The Housing Element identifies the housing needs of the community. The Housing Element is interrelated with the Conservation, Open Space and Recreation Element since the location of where people live, their mobility and their access to the parks facility and programs are interrelated concerns of the two elements.

- NOISE

The Noise Element analyzes excessive noise generating uses (airport, industry, etc.) within the community as well as those uses which are critically impacted by noise. It provides noise level standards acceptable for various land uses.

- SAFETY

The Safety Element is primarily concerned with community protection and preparedness during time of emergency or disaster. Awareness of potential problems such as flooding can guide for the future locations of park/drainage ponds.

- SEISMIC SAFETY

The Seismic Safety Element address hazards which occur due to ground vaulting, shaking and failure as well as to the effects of seismically induced waves. Where a problem exists, consideration of designated open space areas can help prevent catastrophies and then locating urban uses in other areas.

- HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Historic Preservation Element is an optional element and its purpose is to maintain the historic flavor of the community. The preservation of historic sites and structures is related to this element with conservation of the structures which could be used by the publicing mini-park.

- SCENIC HIGHWAYS

This element identifies those highways designated by the State of California as eligible for official scenic highway status and streets or routes designated as scenic by local agencies. The considerations of the designated highways effects the policies of the conservation, open space and recreation.

- ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This element combines three elements, open space, conservation and recreation. This element will be amended by this element of the General Plan.

SECTION 2



COMMUNITY PROFILE

SECTION II COMMUNITY PROFILE

A. Community Description and Location

HISTORY

Visalia, California was founded in 1852, the first community to spring up in the San Joaquin Valley between Stockton and Los Angeles. The original site was a log stockade built to protect families from Indians who were resisting white settlers into the valley. It was called Fort Visalia. Visalia derived its name from Nathaniel Vise, a settler from Kentucky, or from the community of Visalia, Kentucky. Tulare County was formed on April 20, 1852 and in an election in 1853, voted to move the courthouse to Visalia.

AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

Tulare County is the second richest agricultural county in the entire United States. Basic products include almonds, cotton, grapes, walnuts, livestock, olives, peaches etc. Visalia itself plays a major role in developing this agricultural base. Also many industrial firms have located in and around Visalia taking advantage of the ready labor supply, the availability of land, water, and electrical power.

LOCATION

The City of Visalia enjoys a truly central California location, divided by State Highway 198, and is five miles east of State Route 99. Los Angeles is 185 miles to the south, and San Francisco is 225 miles to the north. Morro Bay and the Pacific Ocean are within 150 miles to the west and the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are 36 and 52 miles east, Fresno is 42 miles north and Bakersfield is 73 miles south of Visalia.

Visalia is the regional trade center of Tulare County. Although the City accounts for only 21% of the county population, it captures over 44% of total sales county wide, and about 56% of the general merchandise, apparel and furnishing sales. Retail sales and services totaled more than 400 million in 1980.

CITY GOVERNMENT

Visalia is a municipal corporation chartered in 1875. Services include; police and fire protection, planning, building inspection, sewer and flood control, leisure services, street and park construction and maintenance, solid waste, airport, golf course and a professional baseball team.

The City operates under the Council-Manager form of government and has five elected council members serving.

The Visalia Park, Playground and Recreation Commission was created by the City Council through ordinance #551 on November 20, 1939. The Recreation Department was organized under the California Community Recreation Enabling Act of 1939 with school and City financial cooperation. On February 5, 1940, five members of the Recreation Commission were appointed.

In October of 1958 the Parks and Recreation Departments were consolidated under one department head. In January of 1965, the department title was changed to the Public Services Department with a Recreation Division. Effective 1972, the department was changed to the Recreation and Social Services Division to include the Senior Citizens section. In 1976 the department became the Leisure Services Department to incorporate the wide range of human and social service program offerings.

Currently there are 12 permanent and 3 CETA positions within the department offering a variety of leisure activities to community residents.

Leisure Services contributes to the quality of life in Visalia by creating opportunities for more enjoyable leisure time experiences. This is accomplished through the provision of convenient and pleasant areas and facilities, conservation of recreation resources and a comprehensive and satisfying program of recreation activities and services for all citizens of the community. A major responsibility of the department is to serve as a catalyst for the community, promoting interagency cooperation and constructing and operating facilities which cannot be achieved by individual or private organization effort. Complementary private and commercial recreation efforts are essential so as to provide the community and individual with a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

CLIMATE AND WEATHER

Visalia's climate is semi-arid, includes warm dry summers and very mild winters. Rainfall averages for the past 90 years has been ten inches each year. Average maximum temperatures will range from 95.8 degrees in the summer to 60.8 degrees in the winter. Visalia's official elevation is listed at 331 feet above sea level.

RELIGION

Visalia has 55 churches covering 28 different denominations.

EDUCATION

Over 14,918 students attend classes in the Unified School District currently. Facilities consist of 20 elementary schools, three junior high schools, three high schools, a continuation high school and special handicapped school facilities are available.

The College of the Sequoia's is a two year school consisting of some 4,000 day students and 4,500 night students.

Excellent Adult Education classes are held throughout the year with over 1,500 individuals in attendance. There are at least five private schools in the city also.

B. Population Characteristics

Tulare County's population registered a strong 2.8% year to year gain in 1979. Since 1970, population in Tulare County has advanced at an average rate of 2.5 percent per year. Between 1970 and 1978 this increase was 16% for a total of 225,000. In 1979 Tulare County's population rose to 231,000. This is higher than the San Joaquin Valley rate of 13.3% and the state rate of 9.6%.

Visalia's population is currently estimated at 49,548 January, 1980. This population is projected to increase to approximately 66,250 in 1985 and to 87,400 in 1990.

There has been a significant increase of some 49.4% in population between 1970-78. Currently there are 2.65 people/family in Visalia per household. The median age will continue to increase from 26.8 in 1970 to about 30.3 in 1990. Approximately 50% of Visalia's annual population growth is due to migration from the Los Angeles area. Visalia's yearly rate is running approximately 5-8% yearly at this time statistics over the past year's reflect Visalia's growth increase as follows:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>POPULATION</u>
1950	11,749
1960	14,791
1970	27,268
1980	49,548
1985	66,700 Est.
1990	85,000 Est.
1995	112,900 Est.
2000	142,045 Est.

Age Distribution

The results of the Tulare County Special Census conducted in 1974 indicates the age distribution of Visalia's residents as follows: under 18 years, 31.7 percent; between 18 and 64 years, 48.2 percent; and over

65 years, 10.1 percent. Relative to the 1970 census, the proportion of residents under 18 and over 65 years has declined slightly while the proportion between 18 and 64 years has increased.

During the period between 1970-1975, both the county and state experienced in the proportion of the population under 65 years which were generally similar to that reported in Visalia. However, unlike Visalia, the proportion of the population over 65 years exhibited an increase. Between 1975 and 1990 the proportion of the population over 65 years in Tulare County is projected to decline, while the state population in this age category is expected to show limited expansion. By 1990, both the county and the state are anticipated to have a decrease in the proportion of the population under 18 years and an increase in the proportion between 18-64 years.

On the assumption that the future age distribution of Visalia residents would more closely approximate the county distribution, it would appear that the proportion of the population under 18 years and over 65 years would continue to decline. The population between 18 and 64 years would become increasingly larger. Thus, the City can expect its population to contain proportionately less school-aged children and senior citizens over the next 10 years. On the other hand, the City should anticipate a proportionately larger labor force.

INCOME LEVELS

Median income in Tulare County for 1980 was reported at 9,162. This represents an increase of \$2470 or 36.9% over the 1970 level. The median income level in Visalia was 11,816. This represents an increase of \$3703, or 45.6% over the 1970 level.

Based on the median income data for Visalia residents are estimated to fall into the following income categories.

<u>Income Group</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
High	2657	13.73
Middle	9483	49.05
Low & Moderate	3135	16.22
Very Low	4060	21.00
	19,335.	100.

Ethnic Breakdown

76% Caucasian
21% Mexican-American
1% Black
1% Oriental
1% Other

Employment Breakdown

Labor Force 61% Men 39% Women

Sex Breakdown 48% Male 52% Female

Average Household Size: 2.65 persons per household

Surveys of Recreational Facilities, User Attitude and Interest

The idea of master planning is to develop guidelines for acquisition and development of programs and facilities to serve the recreational needs and desires of Visalia citizens. The concept cannot be complete without a study of the community interest characteristics and the attitudes toward existing and future facilities. Many studies have been completed previously in terms of user preferences, interests and attitudes on national, state and local levels.

NATIONAL STUDY

The Nationwide Outdoor Recreation Plan, was prepared by the Department of the Interior.

The purpose of the study was to provide a recommended action program designed to move toward the attainment of the goal of achieving an equitable distribution of outdoor recreation opportunity and environmental quality for all americans. Recommended policies and actions found in the plan are as follows:

1. A concentrated effort to provide recreation in the major metropolitan areas where the largest inequities (in recreation facilities) now exist.
2. Assisting states and local governments in their efforts to guide suburban growth.
3. Insuring that all federal programs are carried out in a way that preserves outdoor recreation resources and expands recreation opportunity through improved coordination, better use of existing resources and programs, and additional land acquisition where necessary to protect those resources that are needed for continued enjoyment of the environment.

At the national, state, and local level there have been numerous surveys that indicate the following trends:

- 1) Park and recreation facilities are rated as highly desirable and very necessary.
- 2) Open space and outdoor facilities rank high in the need for recreational facilities.
- 3) The American society is increasing its demand for recreational activities, areas and facilities.

STATE STUDY

The California Outdoor Recreation Resources Plan - 1974, was prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation to provide a planning base for Land and Water Conservation funding.

Visalia falls within District 6 in this plan, the following exhibits are related to the findings for this district:

The State study concluded that:

There is a general deficiency of all types of neighborhood and community recreation opportunities, but it is especially acute for the aged and low income people. Land and facilities are needed for the complete spectrum of recreation, indoor as well as outdoor, both the traditional neighborhood parks with green turf, trees, and areas and the community center facility with multi-purpose buildings to provide arts, crafts, and athletic pursuits.

The state report recommended a guideline of 10 acres per 1000 population for local and regional parks. The National Recreation and Park Association has also recommended a 10 acre per 1000 local park guideline.

In summary, the state reports appears to substantiate the findings of the national report.

LOCAL STUDY

From the 1980 community survey, the following results were provided:

Satisfaction with Leisure & Recreation Program?

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Response</u>
16.3	279	Very satisfied
45.6	779	Satisfied
30.0	512	No opinion
6.6	112	Unsatisfied
1.5	26	Very unsatisfied
<u>100.00</u>	<u>1708</u>	

Satisfaction with beautification of parks and streets with trees, flowers, and shrubs?

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Response</u>
16.9	293	Very satisfied
60.1	1040	Satisfied
14.6	252	No opinion
7.1	123	Unsatisfied
1.3	22	Very unsatisfied
<u>100.0</u>	<u>1730</u>	

Satisfaction with park maintenance?

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Response</u>
15.1	261	Very satisfied
54.2	939	Satisfied
20.6	357	No opinion
7.6	132	Unsatisfied
2.4	42	Very unsatisfied
<u>100.0</u>	<u>1731</u>	

Comment/suggestion to improve City government or services or make Visalia a better place to live.

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Response</u>
1.7	9	More downtown parking
1.5	8	More bike paths
11.8	63	Public transportation
8.4	45	Animal control not doing the job; too many stray animals
1.3	7	More neighborhood parks
13.6	73	More law enforcement (speeding, evening patrols, foot patrols)
6.2	33	Repair streets
8.6	46	Council should be more responsive to general public, not special interest groups
1.9	10	City should not be involved in owning a baseball team
3.2	17	More activities and programs for teens
10.3	55	Pleased with city government and city services
.4	2	More swimming facilities
.9	5	Stop lights on Mooney need to be coordinated
.7	4	More neighborhood shopping centers
9.0	48	More street cleaning or sweeping
20.6	110	Control growth
<u>100.0</u>	<u>535</u>	

From local community surveys, it appears the public desires the following:

- 1) To provide input to the planning process.
- 2) To be involved in the planning and development process of parks and recreation areas serving their needs.



SECTION 3



THE GOALS & STANDARDS

SECTION III THE GOALS AND STANDARDS

A. The Master Plan Definition

1. This plan can be directed as giving overall guidance to the planning process to help plan for the future park and recreation needs in Visalia. The plan contains projections for the future, in terms of proposed acquisition, development, and facility requirements as it affects the long range goals and objectives of the city.
2. The basic purpose of the master plan will be used as a guide to the acquisition and development of park and recreation areas, facilities and program services for the future in Visalia. Objectives to be accomplished in this plan will include:
 - a. To gather information that will help us make determinations pertaining to short and long range goals to meet local leisure needs.
 - b. To evaluate trends in recreation and create opportunities to meet these needs.
 - c. To establish standards for acquisition and development of recreation areas and facilities to meet existing and future needs of our community.
 - d. To inventory and categorize all existing recreation areas, facilities and services within the public, private, commercial and voluntary sectors of the community.
 - e. To afford the community with the opportunity to participate in the determination of future requirements for public recreation.
3. The scope of this plan is projected for 10 years with an annual review for the purpose of updating on a consistent and continual basis.
4. As part of the annual review, the 10 year plan will be modified to reflect changes in city philosophy and scope as well as changes to recreational trends.
5. The involvement of the community is vital to both the short and long range plans of the city and every effort should be made to encourage public participation in the annual review of the plan.
6. Short range plan will be based on an annual review procedure, the yearly modification and update for budget considerations will be termed the short range plan and will consist of no more than 5 years. The annual review should occur during the month of February, the report should be written and include results of previous year, population forecast, needs of upcoming year, etc.
7. Long range plan is a 5 to 10 year plan and it shall reflect trends on an annual basis for review and projections up to 10 years.

8. The Plan provides:

- a. A philosophy on which the services system is predicated.
- b. Policy to guide the implementation of the physical and program resources.
- c. Standards to determine the quality and extent of facilities and services.
- d. Integration of the leisure services plan into the general master plan to ensure the integrity of leisure services.
- e. Elimination of waste and assurance of the maximum benefit.
- f. Avoidance of duplication and overlap.

B. GOALS

Introduction - Some of our most meaningful words - happiness, fulfillment, creativeness, satisfaction, self-expression, companionship, health, democracy, are identified today with community recreation. It is toward these most significant ends and the aspects of the good life which they describe, that the goals of Visalia Leisure Services Department are set. This section proposes some generalized goals which should be realized through implementation of the Park and Recreation Element Policies and Recommendations.

Park and Recreation Goals - A goal is an abstract idea that provides a direction towards which policies and recommendations are directed. Goals of the Conservation, and Open Space/Park and Recreation Element amendment to the City of Visalia General Plan are:

PROGRAMS, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND DEPARTMENTAL

1. To provide fully balanced recreation programs and facilities that meet the needs and desires of citizens and visitors, the individual and family alike, regardless of age, sex, race or socio-economic background.
2. To provide programs and facilities that will allow for recreation year round, indoor and out, passive and active, and that encourages leadership as well as spectatorship.
3. To strive to keep pace with social and technological changes by continually updating programs and procedures.
4. To operate programs in such a way that will promote public responsibility and awareness. Also, provide a means by which citizens may become involved with the administration and execution of the cities policies and programs in such a way that it will promote a recreation system more representative of the community and individual needs.

5. To integrate the administration actions of this department with the local, regional, and state systems so as to obtain the greatest use of open space lands with the most efficient expenditure of funds.
6. To continue to look at and develop local recreational facilities and programs with the realization that the energy crisis may curtail travel and will increase the demand for facilities and programs which do not call for heavy energy usage.
7. To coordinate and cooperate with organizations such as, public schools, private business and industry, and commercial developers to help attain a maximum of use and minimum of duplication and cost of recreation facilities and programs within Visalia.
8. To offer comprehensive programs which foster improvement of cultural, educational, and recreation skills and appreciations as well as provide opportunities for individuals to release tensions and maintain healthy bodies and minds through wholesome channels.

CONSERVATION AND BEAUTIFICATION

1. To preserve and rehabilitate those historic structures and/or sites in Visalia that will enhance historical and ancestral pride and identity of the community and individuals.
2. To design and develop, wherever possible, parks and drainage ponds together on one combined site.
3. To prepare and implement a specific plan for a bicycle trail system for the entire community. Thus, creating a bicycle, pedestrian network to promote energy conservation.
4. To create and preserve an agricultural landscaped greenbelt that will be designed on both sides of State Highway 198, which is designated as a scenic highway and also is the major entrance to the city.
5. To create a park, greenway-linkage, and focal point system that gives the community visual unity and identity throughout.
6. To protect, utilize, and enhance natural areas that surround and make up the community so as to provide a pleasant and beautiful environment.
7. To prepare and implement a specific plan that will evaluate and recommend the use and development of existing natural areas of the community. These areas shall include, but not be limited to the St. John's River, River Island, Mill Creek, Packwood Creek, and Evans Creek.

8. To prepare and implement a plan that will recommend the design, type and usage of walls and landscaping along arterial streets and within landscaped medians.
9. To conserve within the natural areas of the community the natural wildlife and their habitat.
10. To prepare and implement a specific plan that will evaluate and recommend the beautification of the community, through landscaping, statues, building design, architectural themes, etc.
11. Create recreation opportunities close to living units to minimize energy usage.

PARK DEVELOPMENT AND ACQUISITION

1. Acquisition and development of 139+ acres of land to meet the recreational needs of the community of Visalia for the next ten years.
2. To encourage the development of 24+ acres of land by the Visalia Unified School District for development of three additional schools, which will assist in providing the recreational needs of the community for the next ten years.
3. To encourage the development of 124+ acres of land by private enterprise for private open space, which will assist in providing the recreational needs of the community for the next ten years.
4. To prepare and implement a specific plan for the development of the Plaza Regional Park complex.
5. To create parks and other recreational facilities which are designed and located based upon convenience, energy conservation, diversity, landscape design, quality construction, accessibility, safety, compatibility, land conservation, neighborhood drainage needs and the best and maximum use of available funds.
6. To encourage the use of Planned Residential Development projects to provide private open space and recreation areas.
7. Insure the development of accessible active and passive open space for all residents of Visalia.

C. STANDARDS

A major role of this Element is the establishment of criteria which will guide the development of future open space areas. These standards should not be idealized goals but rather should be the actual amount of area and facilities necessary to meet community desires and needs. It is also important that the standards be flexible enough to respond to development opportunities and constraints. These open space areas need not be under the control of the City to meet Visalia's needs. The City's role is simply to insure that adequate open space of the appropriate type is available in each neighborhood area. In reviewing park land and recreation opportunities at least the following should be considered: City parks, county parks, school facilities, planned unit developments and commercial recreational uses.

Historically park standards have been established on a national basis and have grossly overstated actual need. This is evidenced by the fact that no City met the old national standards. The National Recreation and Park Association now recognizes the problems with previous standards and attempts to be more reasonable in their latest effort to develop park criteria.

In developing land area standards for Visalia, it should also be remembered that the City is in a rural setting and that much of the passive open space need is met by agricultural land in and around the City. Also, both the national park area and the coast meet a portion of the community's needs for those with access to these areas.

The need for standards is highlighted in the National Recreation and Park Association publication.

Space standards are useful for developing a unified and balanced system of park and recreation lands and facilities. Some principal uses of standards are:

- .The development of a comprehensive plan for park and recreation areas and a systematic approach to land acquisition.
- .The determination of what and how many recreational facilities are needed to best serve the people, and where they should be provided.
- .The justification to political bodies for the acquisition and development of park and recreation lands and facilities and to determine priorities.
- .Use as a measure against which the effectiveness of the park and recreation system can be evaluated.

NATIONAL PARK RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE STANDRDS

Classification	Acres/ 1,000 People	Size Range	Population Served	Service Area
Play lots	*	2,500 S.F. to 1 acre	500-2,500	Sub-neighborhood
Vest Pocket Parks	*	2,500 S.F. to 1 acre	500-2,000	Sub-neighborhood
Neighborhood Parks	2.5	Min. 5 acres up to 20 acres	2,000-10,000	1/4 - 1.2 mile
District Parks	2.5	20-100 acres	10,000-50,000	1/2 - 3 miles
Large Urban Parks	5.0	100+ acres	One for each Each 50,000	Within 1/2 Hr. Driving time
Regional Parks	20.0	250+ acres	Serves entire population in smaller commun- ities, should be distributed throughout larger metro area.	Within 1 Hr. Driving time
Special Areas and Facilities	*	Includes parkways, beaches, plazas, historical sites, flood plains, downtown malls, and small parks, trees, lawns, etc.		

The National standard recommends for the larger metropolitan cities a standard of 30 acres per 1000 population for all open space, which includes regional parks. Without the regional park standard of 20 acres per 1000, they recommend a net 10 acres per 1000 for all other open space. The City of Visalia has adopted a standard that is less than the recommended national standard. The reasoning on the city standard is that the availability of the mountains, coast, agricultural lands, rivers, creeks and the overall development of the city at a lower density, contributes to the open space needs of the community. Thus, the City has adopted a standard guideline of 7.6 acres per 1000 population which is less than the 10 acres per 1000 as recommended by the National Study. This standard includes all of the private open space, shcool open space and city neighborhood and community parks that are available in some form to the citizens within the populated areas. The existing regional parks if added to this standard would increase the level to 11.78 acres/1000 population and the two remaining golf courses available to the community would increase the total to 16 acres/1000 population, which is also less than the total recommended of 30 acres per 1000.

SUMMARY OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED OPEN SPACE

<u>Facility Type</u>	<u>Existing (1/81)</u>	<u>Proposed (1/90)</u>
Private Open Space within populated area (includes country club)	176.36	Unknown
Neighborhood Parks and community parks (includes drainage ponds)	64.23	138.07
School Open Space	263.53	24.00
Regional Parks (Plaza, Mooney & Cutler)	255.00	120.00
Plaza Golf Course	140.00	93.00
St. John's River Parkway	--	55.00
Sierra View and Oak Patch Golf Course	135.00	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	1,034.12	430.07

Specific Facility Standards

Within the classifications for City administered facilities, there are specific standards based on a facility per population ratio. The specific facilities have and are normally developed within the different facility classifications or as a part of facilities owned and maintained by other agencies for public use.

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Standard</u>
Softball Field	1 per 3,000
Baseball Field	1 per 6,000
Football/Soccer Field	1 per 10,000
Handball/3 wall	1 per 1,500
Handball/4 wall	1 per 10,000
Basketball/Outdoor	1 per 500
Tennis	1 per 2,000
Ice Skating	1 per 30,000
Swimming Pool	1 per 10,000
Golf Course	1 per 25,000
Community Center	1 per 25,000
Arena	1 per 50,000
Gymnasium	1 per 10,000
Neighborhood Center	1 per 10,000
Outdoor Theater	1 per 20,000
Shooting Range	1 per 50,000
Neighborhood Pool	1 per 5,000
Auditorium	1 per 20,000
Public Stadium	1 per 100,000
Playfield	1 acre per 1,000

Note 1. Analysis of Visalia Facility Standards is provided in Section IV.

Types of Recreational Facilities

Vest Pocket Park

The vest pocket park is a highly specialized small "pre-school child and young parent" area and is usually located in areas which high density multiple dwellings are prevalent and where no other leisure facilities are available. Typically, the vest pocket park includes a small amount of children's play equipment, a sheltered shaded area with seating for adults and a spattering of landscaping. It will vary in size and shape, and in most cases will range from an average residential lot to one-half acre. A current example of this type of park is "The Garden" located on N.E. 4th Street.

Playfield

A playfield is usually considered as a separate facility of 6 to 20 acres oriented to athletic use. Those uses accommodated by a facility of this nature are softball, baseball, soccer, football, track and field, etc. It was felt that the need will be met by providing major athletic facilities at existing community and regional parks, on proposed ponding basin sites, and school district athletic fields.

Neighborhood Park

The Neighborhood Park should be planned, adapted, and developed to the specific needs of each neighborhood area. Although participation in a neighborhood park, particularly during the summer months, is primarily by teenagers and school age children, this type of facility should also serve the needs of entire families within the neighborhood. Neighborhood parks seldom, if ever, include specialized types of development which would attract participation from outside the immediate neighborhood. This type of park should have a minimum of 2 to 5 acres to best serve the needs of a neighborhood.

A neighborhood park should be carefully planned to achieve a maximum use for all age groups. It should also blend with the neighborhood aesthetics and be designed for maximum public use. For example, the architectural treatment within the park could be associated with that of the adjacent homes. It is necessary to carefully blend a combination of activity areas, passive or quiet areas and landscaping. In each case, function should be combined with the open space feeling that is associated with a neighborhood park site.

Some facilities or areas which should be included in a typical neighborhood park include:

1. Children's creative play area.
2. Overhead shelter-shaded area.
3. Multi-use games court. (Basketball, volleyball)
4. Open turf areas (informal games)
5. Picnic facilities, tables, grills individual and group areas, large areas (sheltered if possible.)
6. Depending on use potential for lighting for night use and security.
7. Off-street parking (if acreage permits)

Generally, these standards and amenities would apply to a neighborhood that consists of a population between 2,000 and 5,000 people. The park should be located in the center of the neighborhood, with a service radius of 1/4 mile.

Neighborhood Park-School

This type of facility is very similar in service and function to that of the neighborhood park. The basic difference is that the park-school is a combination educational and recreational facility. The park-school concept requires less acreage as opposed to the neighborhood park and less of a recreation function is accomplished. The park-school serves primarily that age level of children which attend the school during the academic year, whereas the neighborhood park provides broader, multiple uses for all age groups. Certain types of equipment, areas and buildings can be utilized for both education and recreational needs. For example, play apparatus, game courts, off-street parking, restroom facilities, multi-purpose, and athletic field areas may be provided by the school and made available to the public for recreational use. Due to this, the park portion of the facility could be developed without those components provided on the school portion.

Accommodations which could be provided for on the park acreage include picnic areas, play equipment, shaded shelter, benches, and landscaped areas. Generally speaking, the park portion should provide passive recreational opportunities for the neighborhood. The acreage needed in most cases does not exceed two acres when in conjunction with an elementary site.

Community Parks

Community parks are those types of leisure facilities planned to serve the broader recreational needs of many neighborhoods. This type of park generally serves persons who reach it by automobile, as opposed to the walk-to characteristic of the neighborhood park. All facilities in a community park should be designed to serve large groups of people during both peak and normal periods of use. The recommended size for a community park as considered by this report is 8 to 20 acres.

Community parks should include provisions for a large children's creative play apparatus, including an area for pre-school children and a parent's observation shaded area. Picnic facilities should be provided both for family or individual use, and shelter areas to accommodate large groups. Open space areas for soccer, softball, football and unsupervised free play should be provided. A community building with meeting rooms, kitchen, crafts area, multi-purpose room, offices, and adequate parking should be considered at all community parks. Additional amenities may include a senior citizen center, aquatic center, tennis courts and an outdoor concert area.

The factors influencing the location of community parks are those of the population served, the maximum of which should be 20,000 per facility; and service radius, the optimum distance of which is suggested to be 1/2 mile.

Community School-Park

The Community School-Park basically serves the recreation needs of the area which a high school, secondary or elementary school plant would serve in population. A high school or junior high or elementary site should contribute a minimum of 8 to 10 acres of usable acreage for recreation that should not have to be duplicated by the City of Visalia. An excellent example of this concept is the Whitendale Park,

Mt. View Elementary concept of joint use of open space. Although park sites are not adjacent to Mt. Whitney, Redwood, and C.O.S., the open space at each of these sites should be considered in community recreational open space standards. However, the school plant is designed to provide primarily an educational function and cannot entirely take the place of developed park areas.

Regional Parks

With the continued development of Plaza Park and the use of Mooney Grove and Cutler Park, the City's regional park needs are met for the foreseeable future. The expansion of facilities within these parks may be necessary as population increases. For example, the Plaza Park golf course, picnic area, and ball fields area are reaching capacity and will need to be expanded shortly.

Also, this is an area where private/public interface is highlighted. The development of new private golf courses, and even the operation of existing ones, is questionable with land costs at their current level. Here is an area that should be monitored to insure community needs are met either publicly or through aid in developing private courses. Other facilities may need to be developed in conjunction with the park expansions to insure financial feasibility of the new projects.

Bike Paths are planned to connect residential areas to parks, schools and commercial areas. A specific plan for bikeways should be prepared by the Bikeway Committee to specially locate the needed bikeways for each neighborhood.

River Islands

This is a special feature of the northeast area. The St. John's River borders the north boundary of this area and includes many islands. The St. John's River is currently under study and various ways of using the islands will be provided, which may include day hiking, camping and nature trails. A specific plan is currently being prepared for this area.

Creek/River/Ditch Levees

The community plan area is composed of three ditch areas and one major river. It is essential for future planning efforts to conserve these areas for bike and pedestrian trails.

Private Open Space/Parks

A private park is a facility that is owned, operated and maintained by a private organization. It will vary in size and shape. A current example of this type of park is in the "Millwood Subdivision" on Demaree.

SECTION 4



IDENTIFICATION & ANALYSIS OF EXISTING AND FUTURE NEEDS

SECTION IV. IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF EXISTING AND FUTURE NEEDS

A. Introduction

No one can adequately predict exactly what lies ahead for recreation, but we can make some reasonably educated projections. These projections will be based on user attitudes, past experience, population and new trends. From this information, we can project the community recreational needs for the next 5 to 10 years. It should be noted, that the City should remain flexible in adjusting programs to meet changing conditions.

The energy crunch will certainly affect the park and recreation field in the 80's. More demands will be made on parks as people will not be able to afford or possibly obtain gasoline to travel long distances in search of recreation. Along with energy shortages, inflation will further force a reduction of leisure excursions, causing Visalia's a re-orientation to their local facilities and activities.

In projecting future needs for parks and programs, the City will need to utilize energy conservation methods into future planning. It will be necessary to provide programs in each residential area, rather than have the citizens drive to one large recreational facility. By doing this, the City can meet the needs of people closer to their homes. Future parks should be combined wherever possible with drainage ponds to help conserve land and energy.

The traditional service approach role assumed by recreation and park agencies has been the direct provider role. This involves the agency taking exclusive responsibility for the planning and organizing programs and developing organizational priorities. Basically the agency provides what they feel the community wants.

An alternative to this approach is the facilitator role which should be highly considered in the future. This approach emphasizes the agency's role as a facilitator or enabler of leisure opportunities. It may involve the co-sponsorship of programs with other agencies such as the YMCA or school district. It could initiate a leisure opportunity referral system of technical and consultative services to community groups. The basic key to this role is that no one agency can rely on its own exclusive use of being the prime provider. In this day of fewer dollars to operate on, it makes good sense to share programs. By this role the recreation agency has assumed the role of a referral agent. They would act as a broker, providing a connection between the recreational needs of community residents and the supply of recreation and park opportunities available to satisfy them.

Another approach to consider in the future of providing activities would be the outreach role in which emphasis is placed on reaching out beyond the confines of a recreation facility to assist directly those in the neighborhood. Many times individuals are unable to go to the recreation agency or do not wish to. By going to them, it helps to meet needs where they are.

A variety of trends are indicated for the future.

- Activities will increase for leisure on the weekends.
- Senior citizen and family activities will increase.
- There will be a need to have more challenging and creative leisure activities.
- Trend toward non-competitive and fun type activities.
- Leisure counseling classes are on the rise.
- Stronger citizen involvement and community interest on the increase.
- Incomes are higher today and people are willing to pay for good recreation.
- People now place less emphasis on work than they did 25 years ago and more time has developed for leisure.
- A rise in cultural activities is noticeable.
- Physical fitness activities are increasing.
- Increase in special groups on the rise.
- The life time sports like tennis, golf, bowling are increasing.
- Bicycling and raquetball are on the increase.
- Day camping and outdoor nature activities increasing greatly.
- Health, nutrition and exercise are increasing.
- Parks are being developed closer to home.
- Multi-use of facilities on the rise.
- Saving our environment - restoring and preventing destruction is a high priority today.
- Fitness, home making arts and gymnastics continue to increase.
- Day care use will be on the increase as both parents and the single parent now work.
- People are becoming more selective in their choice of leisure experiences.
- More community wide activities will be stressed in the immediate future.

B. Existing Facilities and Future Needs

The neighborhood concept forms the basic framework for Visalia's General Plan. The neighborhood boundaries were developed in 1974 and revised in 1976. Ideally, the neighborhood should consist of approximately 4000-6000 people, have an elementary school and park as its nucleus, have no major arterials bisecting it and have neighborhood commercial facilities located on its periphery. The neighborhood should be one homogeneous living unit where the children can walk from their homes to the park and school in safety.

Identification of Existing Neighborhoods - In previous planning efforts, the City of Visalia has established neighborhood districts. These districts represent the basic physical areas which are homogeneous. The existing neighborhood boundaries were developed using factors of existing

and future street location and traffic, population, and school service area (1/2 mile radius). On the basis of this criteria the following neighborhoods were established:

The neighborhoods have been analyzed individually to explore growth trends and project future park needs. The needs indicated will focus on the larger type neighborhood parks with the smaller open areas a function of site plan review during the development process. The standards developed in the element will form the framework for any review which occurs and/or park requirements which are mandated.

Neighborhood 1 is located north of Houston Avenue, east of Mooney, west of Highway 63, and south of Riffin Avenue.

The majority of this area has recently been annexed to the City, with the remainder being anticipated to be annexed over the next several years. The neighborhood is a portion of the Modoc Specific Plan. This plan deals in part with park needs through the need to develop a comprehensive storm drainage system for the area. As this area continues to develop, storm drainage ponds will be provided, which during the non-raining seasons will provide park areas. This neighborhood is expected to see rapid growth over the next ten years, perhaps doubling the existing population.

Park needs will be met through Fairview Elementary School, which is a 12 acre school site. The school provides 2 football fields, 5 softball fields, 6 basketball courts, tetherball, swings and picnic tables. Also, park needs will be met by two-six acre City parks which will be developed adjacent to the school and through several smaller one to two acre parks spread throughout the neighborhood. A pedestrian/bicycle system will be developed on the street to link the park areas together. The North Visalia Community Center and Summers Park are both located within 1/2 mile of this neighborhood.

Neighborhood 2 is located north of Houston, east of Highway 63, west of Ben Maddox Way, and south of the St. John's River.

This neighborhood is divided by the Santa Fe railroad, the western portion is included in the Modoc Plan and the eastern portion is in the Northeast Plan. Several new developments are planned for this area. Within the last three years several hundred acres has been annexed to the City and is within one phase or another of the subdivision process.

Park needs for the area west of the railroad tracks are currently being provided by the North Visalia Community Center and Summers Park. One to two acre small parks are currently planned north of the Modoc Ditch. In addition, facilities exist at Crowley Elementary School. This school is

located on a 6.2 acre site, which contains 4.13 acres of open space, one lighted softball field, three portable softball fields, three basketball courts, park equipment and picnic tables. The area east of the Santa Fe railroad tracks a 4-7 acre neighborhood park/storm drain retention pond is planned to provide the additional recreational needs. A system of pedestrian/bicycle paths will be provided to link the parks with the rest of the neighborhood and all other facilities that will be constructed in the northeast area.

Neighborhood 3 is located north of Houston Avenue, east of Ben Maddox Way, west of Road 148 and south of the St. John's River.

This neighborhood is located in the Northeast Specific Plan. Population in this neighborhood is expected to increase from the current population of 900 to the full development of 5000 by 1990. The area can be divided into two sections divided by the school complex. The area west of the school facilities will be focused on small parks, serving the adjacent housing area open space needs. A green belt area will be provided to serve bicycle and pedestrian needs as well as simply serving as an open space feature for the area. The major recreational needs should be met by the Golden West/Valley Oak School complex. The school complex consists of 52.68 acres and currently includes a gymnasium and picnic tables. Future plans are for a pool, tennis courts, handball courts, football fields, baseball fields, track facilities and basketball courts. This school will provide facilities equivalent to a community park for Neighborhoods 2, 3, 4 and 5.

The area east of McAuliff Avenue may eventually form another separate neighborhood. Development is still several years away, because sanitary sewer lines need to be extended a long distance to serve the area. The future plans for this area indicate that 500 to 700 homes will be built and a 4-7 acre park/ponding basin will be provided to meet their recreational needs. The neighborhood will also be served by the proposed improvements to the St. John's River Parkway. A pedestrian/bicycle path will be provided along the levee, connecting parks and schools. This parkway will also connect the residents of this neighborhood to Cutler Park, which is a regional facility owned by the County. Cutler Park consists of 55 acres of open space, with large oak trees and picnic tables.

Neighborhood 4 is located north of Highway 198, west of Road 148, east of Lovers Lane and south of Houston Avenue.

This neighborhood is also located within the Northeast Specific Plan. Recreational and open space areas will focus around Mill Creek which bisects the area. The western half of the area will develop over the next five years, raising the population from 600 to approximately 2000 people. The eastern half of the neighborhood is several years away from development, because sanitary sewer lines need to be extended a long distance to serve the area.

Park facilities for this neighborhood will include two 4-7 acre large neighborhood parks and ponding basins. In addition, pedestrian/bicycle paths and a community park will be provided along Mill Creek, which will take advantage of its natural feature. As for the remainder of this area, swales/greenways will be provided to link the homes with schools, shopping and the park areas.

Neighborhood 5 is located north of Highway 198, east of Ben Maddox Way, west of Lovers Lane and south of Houston Avenue.

The majority of this neighborhood contains, warehousing and other related industrial/ commercial activities. Building activity is expected to occur in this area over the next several years with a total buildout of 1200-1400 dwelling units. By 1985 the population is projected to be between 1500 to 2000 people.

Parks planned for the area include a 4-7 acre neighborhood park/ponding basin facility. As in most of the northeast and Modoc areas (Neighborhoods 1-5), these parks are mandated by the storm drainage needs of the area. In planning the storm detention basins, care should be taken to meet the recreation and open space needs of the neighborhood. The area will also be served by the Mill Creek Parkway, with grade separated crossings proposed to link the neighborhood with both the school complex and the rest of the creek area. Other pedestrian and bicycle plans include the development of connections to the downtown area, through a combination of Mill Creek, on-street and off-street improvements.

Neighborhood 6 is located north of Highway 198, east of Court Street, west of Ben Maddox Way and south of Houston Avenue.

Neighborhood 6 contains a large portion of the downtown and the industrial/ warehousing area. The neighborhood has approximately 1500 residents and is considered built out, although some redevelopment and in-filling may occur.

There is a need to develop facilities to serve Neighborhood 6 and 7 (perhaps in a combined facility to serve both). The Ice House fills a portion of this need, however, space for more active recreation should be provided. The Ice House development should continue, it provides community facilities as well as some visual relief for the area.

Neighborhood 6 contains three unique open space/recreation areas. The "Garden" is a quarter acre recreation area which receives heavy use. The park includes play equipment, a basketball court, and picnic facilities. The Lincoln Oval Park is a half acre passive recreation open space area. The future planning in this area should make all efforts to tie the surrounding land use more closely to this park. Also, the neighborhood contains the senior center which offers a variety of activities to the City's senior citizens.

Neighborhood 6 does have some undeveloped open space land, which is located in the midst of the industrial development. This area should be conserved if possible, this can be accomplished through easement agreements or purchase.

Neighborhood 7 is located north of Highway 198, east of Giddings, northeast of Goshen Avenue, east of Mooney Blvd., west of Court St. and south of Houston Avenue.

This neighborhood houses a portion of the downtown area and most of the City's medical services. The area is completely built out, except for a few sections in the western portion of the neighborhood. The area contains Recreation Park, Redwood High School, Houston and Highland School which combine to meet a portion of the open space and recreational needs within the neighborhood.

Recreation Park is an 18 acre community park, it contains recreation center and the offices for the Leisure Services Department. Their facilities include a swimming pool, restrooms, covered picnic areas, two football fields, one lighted baseball field, two outdoor basketball courts, one volleyball court, small tot lot and a large open space area. Redwood High School is a 26.32 acre school site, it contains 4.27 acres of open space, Mineral King Bowl (football, soccer, track). L.J. Williams Theater, 8 lighted tennis courts, 4 unlighted tennis courts, 1 lighted softball field, 2 unlighted softball fields, 8 handball courts and 4 shuffleboard areas. Houston Elementary School is on a 10.4 acre site, it contains 7.3 acres of open space, 6 softball fields, 3 football fields, 3 basketball courts and playground equipment. Highland Elementary School is on a 5.14 acre site, it contains 3.62 acres of open space, 3 softball fields and playground equipment.

There is still a need for active recreational space in selected portions of the neighborhood, particularly in the Oval area. The Oval area is a key element in the Visalia Downtown Study, it currently contains a half acre park. Once the Downtown Study is completed, a specific development pattern for the oval area will be provided. As mentioned in Neighborhood 6, it may be possible to develop a park to meet the needs of both neighborhoods 6 and 7. A neighborhood center is proposed by the Redevelopment Agency in the Oval area, which will provide an active park, a child day care center and tot lot. This will help meet the needs of the neighborhood. Longer range plans would include the use of Glen Moran Hall and its related recreational facilities. This would require a great deal of negotiation and simply should be explored for feasibility.

Attention should be focused on making better use of Mill Creek and creating mini-parks within the downtown area. The mini-parks would serve the needs of those using the downtown and provide visual relief for the area.

Neighborhood 8 is located north of Highway 198, east of Demaree Road, west of Giddings, Goshen and Mooney, and south of Houston Avenue.

With the development of the West Main Street park adjacent to Mill Creek by the Tulare County Center Complex, most of the needs for the area are met. This portion of the community has more passive open space than any other developed neighborhood, however, this space provides a visual amenity only and is not accessible to the general public. The appearance of Mill Creek and the existence of the County Club are outstanding open space features which should be maintained. The neighborhood also contains Green Acres Junior High School, Mayor's Park, Redwood West and a proposed part at Main and Hall streets.

Green Acres Junior High School is on a 19 acre site, contains 14.87 acres of open space, 1 lighted softball field, 5 unlighted softball fields, 1 football field, 1 soccer field, 6 basketball courts and 6 tennis courts. Redwood West is on a 7 acre site, contains 3.17 acres of open space, 3 basketball courts, 2 softball fields and 1 baseball field. Mayor's Park is a .6 acre site and it contains picnic tables and an open space area.

Neighborhood 9 is located north of Highway 198, east of Shirk Road, west of Demaree and south of Goshen Avenue.

Neighborhood 9 has undergone fairly steady development over the last four years. This growth is projected to continue, although at a slower pace than the north-eastern portion of the city. Analysis of the neighborhood indicates that its needs will be met through the improvement of a portion of the Willow Glen Elementary School site. In addition, the city owns land directly adjacent to the site which is being examined in relation to the overall planning which is now being prepared. The overall master plan will specify other open space features and minor park areas which should be developed. The neighborhood is intended to have more of a rural larger lot character than the rest of the city and as such has less need for scattered park sites.

Willow Glen Elementary School is a 12.88 acre site, which consists of 8.7 acres of open space, 3 portable softball fields, 4 basketball courts, 2 football fields, and playground equipment.

There are some park needs in the area of the armory and it is possible through some joint use agreement that a park could be developed adjacent to and in conjunction with the armory land area. This would have to be coordinated through the development of the land adjacent to the armory and if possible should be developed at least in part through the planned unit development process.

Neighborhood 10 is located north of Walnut Avenue, east of Akers Road, west of Demaree and south of Highway 198.

Residential infilling is the only type of development left in this area, which houses some 4000 people. The park needs of the area will be met through the PUD process and school sites. Once the new Junior High School is constructed at Tulare and Akers all the large active space needs will be met. Veva Blunt Elementary School is located within this neighborhood and is located on a 10.2 acre site, which consists of 8 acres of open space, 4 basketball courts, 4 softball fields, 3 soccer-football fields and various playground equipment.

It is important for this area to have smaller open space areas developed wherever possible. This should be controlled through the site plan process as future development occurs.

Neighborhood 11 is located north of Walnut Avenue, east of Demaree, west of Mooney and south of Highway 198.

This neighborhood is completely built out. Park needs are being met by Houk Park/Royal Oaks Elementary School and the College of Sequoias.

Houk Park is a 2.38 acre site, includes a basketball court, tot lot, and picnic facilities.

Royal Oaks Elementary School is on a 17 acre site, which contains 14.5 acres of open space, 3 basketball courts, 5 softball fields, 3 soccer-football fields and various playground equipment.

The College of Sequoias is located on a 55 acre site, with 35 acres of open space, 9 tennis courts, 4 three wall handball courts, 4 four wall handball courts, six land all weather track, six hole golf course, 2 regulation baseball diamonds, 1 softball diamond, 1 soccer football field and 2 volleyball courts.

Neighborhood 12 is located north of Walnut Avenue, east of Mooney Blvd., west of Watson St., and south of 198.

This is an older neighborhood of the City, it consists of 6,000 people and is completely built-out. Park needs are being met by Mt. Whitney High School, Conyer School, Divisadero School, Rotary Park, the YMCA, and Jefferson Park.

Mt. Whitney High School is located on a 52.4 acre site, with 32.4 acres of open space, 5 lighted tennis courts, 5 unlighted tennis courts, 4 three wall handball courts, 2 basketball courts, 4 volleyball courts, 3 football fields (1 lighted), 1 track, 3 baseball fields (1 lighted), 2 soccer fields, 3 softball fields, 6 archery targets and a gym. Divisadero Junior High School is located on a 13.65 acre site, with 7.65 acres of open space, 9 basketball courts, 2 baseball fields, 3 softball fields, 2 football-soccer fields. Conyer School is located on a 8.9 acre site, with 5 acres of open space, 4 basketball courts, 2 soccer-football fields, 4 softball fields and 1 volleyball court. Rotary Park is a 2.5

acre site with picnic facilities and tot lot play area. Jefferson Park is a 3.5 acre site with a lighted softball field, basketball court, tot lot and picnic facilities.

Neighborhood 13 is located north of Walnut Avenue, east of Watson St., west of Ben Maddox Way and south of Highway 198.

This area is another older completely developed neighborhood. The park needs are generally met by Mt. Whitney, Jefferson Park, and Washington School. Additional scattered open space areas would be desirable, particularly north of Tulare Avenue. It is unlikely that there will be many opportunities in the future to develop these scattered park sites. There is some land, that may be available east of Santa Fe between Cypress and Tulare. In addition, the neighborhood contains the Hyde House which has been placed on the National Register of Historic homes. The house in conjunction with two adjoining lots will provide a major cultural facility for the community. At the current time funds are being raised by Visalia Heritage Incorporated to restore the house. Once restored it will be used for community and cultural activities.

Mt. Whitney High School and Jefferson Park were both described in Neighborhood 12. Washington Elementary School is located on a 3.5 acre site, with 2.0 acres of open space, 3 basketball courts, 2 softball fields, 1 soccer-football field and various play equipment.

Neighborhood 14 is located north of K Road, east of Ben Maddox Way, west of Lovers Lane and south of Highway 198.

This is a large neighborhood in the eastern portion of the city. It is expected to experience substantial growth over the next 5 to 10 years. Population is currently estimated to be 1,000 and is projected to grow by 2400 by 1985 and 4600 by 1990.

The development of the school site at Tulare and Pinkham should meet a portion of the large park needs. Facilities available during non-school hours should be developed either on-site or the City should improve a small area adjacent to the school to augment the school area. Private development proposals submitted for the neighborhood have included substantial open space areas. This trend should be promoted to the extent possible including the provision of development incentives where possible. Ponding basins may also be needed in the neighborhood to accommodate future growth. These should be designed to meet recreation needs, particularly in the southern portion of the neighborhood.

Neighborhood 15 is located north of Walnut Avenue, east of Lovers Lane, west of Road 148 and south of 198.

Neighborhood 15 is centered around Mineral King School. The majority of the neighborhood is outside the City's ten year improvement boundary, so growth should not be expected for the next five years. If the area opens up for development in 1985, it is likely that a specific plan will be prepared to guide future growth. Within this specific plan, storm drainage, conservation, open space and recreation needs will be fully discussed.

Neighborhood 16 is located north of Caldwell, east of West Street, west of Ben Maddox Way and south of Walnut Avenue.

The area houses approximately 2000 people with some infilling anticipated to continue in the future. Park and recreational needs are being met by Mountain View School, Whitendale Park, and Packwood Creek Parks. The creek area and larger lots that occupy part of the neighborhood appear to meet the open space needs.

Mountain View School is located on a 14.9 acre site, with 12 acres of open space, 9 basketball courts, 6 softball fields, 2 soccer-football fields and various play equipment. Whitendale and Packwood Creek Parks are currently under construction. Whitendale Park is located on a 17.7 acre site and Packwood Creek Park is located on a 8 acre site.

Neighborhood 17 is located north of Caldwell, east of Mooney Blvd., West of West Street and south of Walnut Avenue.

Neighborhood 17 is experiencing some growth in the south adjacent to Caldwell. Parks needs should be met with the development of a new elementary school site and adjacent city park. These facilities will augment Whitendale and Packwood Creek Parks as well as Mountain View School which are also available to this neighborhood.

Neighborhood 18 is located north of Caldwell, east of Demaree, west of Mooney Blvd., and south of Walnut Avenue.

Neighborhood 18 contains approximately 3600 people and is close to full development. Two to three hundred more homes are expected within the next ten years.

The development of Crestwood Park in conjunction with Crestwood Elementary School has met most of the park needs for the area. In addition, scattered parks have been developed privately in several portions of the neighborhood.

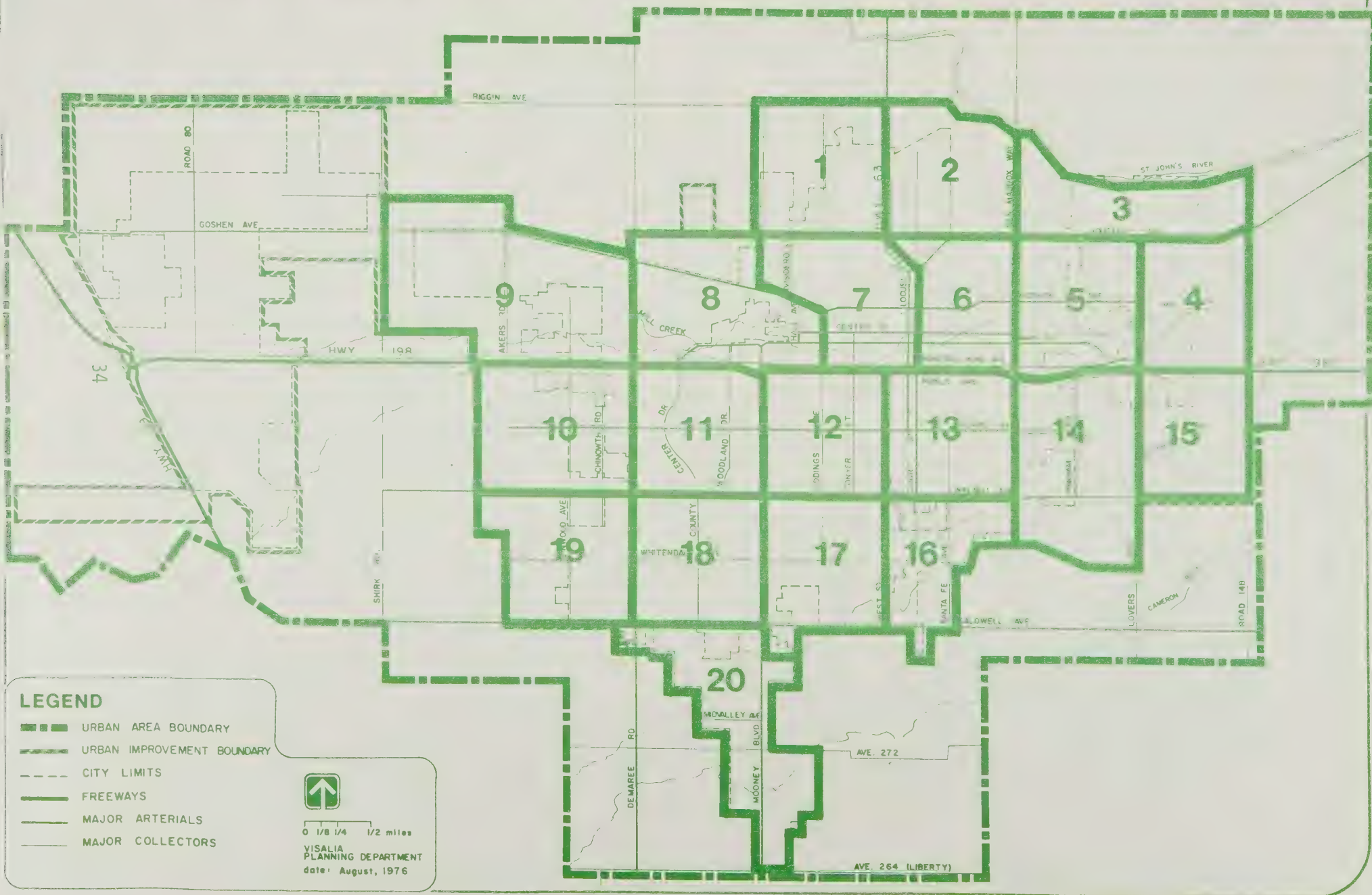
Neighborhood 19 is located north of Caldwell, east of Akers Road, west of Demaree and south of Walnut Avenue.

This area contains about 2,000 people, with some growth expected to continue as the neighborhood fills out. The park needs in this area are met by Linwood School, Linwood Park, COS day care center and also through the development process.

Neighborhood 20 is located north of Avenue 264, west of Demaree and County Center, east of Giddings and south of Caldwell Avenue.

Neighborhood 20 is located south of Caldwell Avenue and is surrounded by passive open space area. Currently there are approximately 1900 people in the area and is expected to increase to 2500 by 1990. The use of Packwood Creek should be emphasized as both open space area and recreational feature. Several small park areas are proposed within the area including a ponding basin site just west of Mooney. New development plans have been incorporated with a scattered park concept and these needs should be met as new construction occurs. It also should be noted that Mooney Grove, a major regional park is located within the neighborhood area.

NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES



VISALIA NEIGHBORHOOD POPULATION ESTIMATES

<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Housing Units</u>	<u>Population</u>		
		<u>1/80</u>	<u>1/85</u>	<u>1/90</u>
1	1050	3400	4700	6450
2	650	1700	3700	5900
3	900	900	2900	5100
4	250	650	1950	4300
5	300	800	1600	3000
6	500	1500	1500	1500
7	1700	4500	4500	4500
8	900	2400	2400	2400
9	1000	2600	3600	4900
10	1500	3950	5000	6300
11	1750	5050	5100	5150
12	2450	6400	6400	6400
13	1875	4900	4900	4900
14	400	1100	2400	4600
15	225	600	600	3250
16	700	1850	2500	2500
17	1300	3500	3700	3700
18	1350	3600	4250	4300
19	700	1900	2500	3350
20	700	1900	2500	2500
	19,650	53,200	66,700	85,000*

*Assuming the City of Visalia population continues to increase as projected. The population should be reviewed and adjusted on a yearly basis.

NEIGHBORHOOD	PRIVATE		CITY		SCHOOL DISTRICT		TOTAL		
	EXISTING	PROPOSED	EXISTING	PROPOSED	EXISTING	PROPOSED	EXISTING	PROPOSED	TOTAL
1	0	0	0	12.0	9.0	0	9.0	12.0	21.0
2	0	0	3.7	12.0	4.13	0	7.83	12	19.83
3	11.25	0	0	15.0	57.4	0	68.65	15	83.65
4	0	0	0	20.0	0	0	0	20	20.00
5	0	0	0	10.0	0	0	0	10	10.00
6	0	0	3.75	2.0	0	0	3.75	1	5.75
7	0	0	18.	0	18.5	0	36.50	0	36.50
8	128.6	0	5.6	1.0	15.0	0	149.21	1	150.21
9	2.50	0	0	8.0	8.7	0	11.20	8	19.20
10	10.0	0	0	3.0	8.0	8.0	18.0	11.0	29.00
11	0	0	2.38	0	49.5	0	51.88	0	51.88
12	0	0	2.5	0	12.7	0	15.20	0	15.20
13	14.0	0	3.5	0	34.4	0	51.9	0	51.90
14	1.0	0	0	17.46	0	8.0	1.0	25.46	26.46
15	0	0	0	13.80	11.0	0	11.0	13.8	24.80
16	0	0	8.0	0.6	12.0	0	20.0	0.6	20.06
17	0	0	10.0	7.81	0	8.0	10.0	15.81	25.81
18	8.0	0	2.0	0	14.7	0.0	24.7	0.	24.7
19	0	0	4.8	8.0	8.5	0	13.3	8.0	21.3
20	0	0	0	8.0	0	0	0	8.0	8.0
TOTAL	175.36	0	64.23	138.67	263.53	24.0	503.12	162.67	665.79

C. Evaluation of Community Programs and Program Facilities

One of the basic purposes and direction for the City's Leisure Services planning is to contribute to the quality of life in Visalia by creating opportunities for more enjoyable leisure time experiences. This has been accomplished through the provision of convenient and pleasant areas and facilities, conservation of recreation resources, and a comprehensive and satisfying program of recreation activities and services for all the citizens of the community.

ADMINISTRATION

The department administers and coordinates all the programs and services in the city. Included are the director, two superintendents, five supervisors, one coordinator, and five office staff personnel. As the population increases we could expect to add one more staff position at 60,000, one at 80,000 and two more at 100,000 to help keep pace with future growth.

In the years ahead we can expect less appropriations to the general fund. Through greater emphasis will continue to be placed on fees and charges, fund raising, using volunteers, serving as a catalyst and facilitator, and streamlining existing services.

PLAYGROUNDS, FACILITIES, SPECIAL EVENTS AND LESIRE ENRICHMENT CLASSES

The City currently provides a multi-faceted scope of leisure activities and services at public playgrounds, parks and other facilities. Recreation activities, special classes, special events, outdoor facilities and meeting areas are available for community use. Playgrounds are designed for children 5-12 years of age. Adult and special classes are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Recreation personnel are provided to assist with the activities and supervision of facilities.

It is anticipated that a continued growing interest in the leisure enrichment type classes will continue in the future. Special events will continue to play a major role in helping people to enjoy their leisure hours. The playground program will remain fairly stable and will possibly expand into more special activities at selected times during the year.

This department will continue a major role in the planning and development of park and recreation facilities. Future growth is expected to come in the areas of teen activities, special community events and additional children and adult activities.

AQUATICS

The current program is offered for children, youth and adults from May to September. Trained staff, facilities and programs are available to meet community needs in water safety, skill improvement, instruction, water sports and group swimming.

The instructional class offerings have stabilized in attendance and it is anticipated that this will continue in the future. Public swimming has decreased over the past years and is in part due to the many private backyard pools available. Public swim attendance show the following trends:

1975	20,348
1976	19,129
1977	20,082
1978	16,150
1979	19,828
1980	15,605

NORTH VISALIA COMMUNITY CENTER

This area provides a variety of local neighborhood recreational and social service programs to the citizens in a select neighborhood of the City. Major objectives include: assisting individuals with special concerns they might have and working to establish a good working relationship in the area.

It is anticipated this program will remain fairly stable over the next few years with a slight growing trend. This growth is expected because of the new housing developments adjacent to the community center.

SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAM

The major purpose of the senior citizen program is to provide an organized and diversified program of recreation, educational, and social services for the older adult and to enhance their dignity, support and independence.

To accomplish this end the following major programs and services have been identified at the Senior Center:

Educational classes involving skills for vocational or personal enrichment.

Recreational - classes available to pursue meaningful, civic, cultural, and recreational activities.

Nutrition - one complete meal served six days per week.

Financial - provisions to help older adults in retirement by offering a discount program, gleaning fruits and vegetables, food bank, offering assistance with property tax, renter's relief and income tax.

Information and Referral - Staff is available to assist seniors with health concerns, housing, employment, retirement planning, legal counseling etc.

Transportation - Two mini-buses are available to transport seniors to and from the center and to go shopping and to medical appointments.

Volunteers - Seniors have the opportunity to share their resources with others in the community by volunteering.

Outreach - Older adults have special needs which staff can help assist with.

Senior programs will grown in proportion to the 60 year old age group. Seniors are beginning to be recognized group and growth is anticipated in this program in the future.

HANDICAPPED RECREATION

One of the most significant social trends of the past two decades has been the changing attitude of the public toward the handicapped or disabled persons.

In the past, the needs of the handicapped were often overlooked. With imagination and creativity, recreational activities and facilities can be effectively adapted to the needs of handicapped persons today.

For the future, our department will make a sincere effort to help coordinate activities affecting the handicapped and work to help see that their recreational needs are being met where possible.

SOFTBALL

As of 1980, 76 softball fields exist within the City, this number includes 4 city fields and 72 school fields. For the present level of standards for adult city league competition, only the city fields can be used. The school facilities provide a good practice field, but they don't include lights, groomed infield or fences. Also, a concern with using school facilities is the conflict between softball related noise and the peacefulness of a residential neighborhood. But, as the City continues to grow and land becomes more expensive and scarce the city should analyze the level of competition and consider providing a lower level on the existing school facilities.

To meet the growing demand for this sport at the present level, 3 new fields will be needed by 1985 and 2 more by 1990. One of these fields will be needed for the 1981 season, which will handle the projected need of 30 additional teams. Based on our projected growth rate, the remaining two fields will be needed between 1982-85. The following is the growth rate for the sport for the next ten years.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TEAMS</u>
-------------	--------------

1975	88
1976	101
1977	120
1978	195
1979	235
1980	291

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TEAMS</u>
-------------	--------------

1981	320
1982	336
1983	353
1984	388
1985	407

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TEAMS</u>
-------------	--------------

1986	429
1987	451
1988	473
1989	495
1990	517

*1981-1990 Projected

BASEBALL

Currently there are 18 baseball facilities within the City. Visalia has one major league facility and five very good school facilities. The other 12 fields can be used for regulation type play. The current standard for the city is 1 field per 6,000 people, which exceeds the need for 1990. When new fields are added at new school sites, these will add to surplus in the future.

FOOTBALL-SOCCER FIELDS

There is an inadequacy in this type of facility within the community. The standard indicates 1 field per 10,000 population, there are only three regulation type fields (Mineral King Bowl, Mt. Whitney, C.O.S.). An additional field will be provided by Golden West High School, but we will still be inadequate for this facility.

The use of school grounds will assist in providing field for youth activities. The city does not need to develop future fields for their own use, but can facilitate and work with other user groups to meet the future needs.

BASKETBALL COURTS

Indoor courts appear to be adequate for the present demand. There are currently 6 gymnasiums within the community and the city has four of these facilities available each week. The mini-gym at the Golden West High School has allowed for additional youth and adult leagues. The gymnasiums are heavily used between November and April. To keep up with projected demand, one additional facility will be needed in the next 5 years.

Outdoor courts are presently 11 less than the required standards, but based on the number of users, there appears to be more than enough to meet the demand.

Adult League

Year	Team
1975	- 52
1976	- 56
1977	- 61
1978	- 72
1979	- 72
1980	- 70
1985	- 80 (Projected)
1990	- 98 (Projected)

Youth League

Year	Team
1975	- 24
1976	- 26
1977	- 23
1978	- 25
1979	- 26
1980	- 35
1985	- 48 (Projected)
1990	- 61 (Projected)

HANDBALL COURTS (FOUR WALL)

The City currently exceeds this standard with 12 courts. This is an expensive facility for use by a limited number of people and should be carefully evaluated for future planning. Currently there are two private facilities in Visalia which has twenty four wall courts and there are four courts at the college. These twelve courts meet the current demand. Future needs will probably be met by private enterprise.

HANDBALL COURTS (THREE WALL)

There are currently sixteen courts, all located on school facilities. Based on our standard of 1 court per 1,500 people, we should have 33 courts. The facility standard is not being met, but according to community needs, the demand for handball courts is being met. All future courts should be constructed along with school facilities.

VOLLEYBALL COURTS

Seventy one courts currently exist on school facilities and meet the needs of the community.

TENNIS COURTS

The current facilities are almost double the standard for a community of this size. Future needs will be provided by new school sites and possibly by private enterprise.

ICE SKATING

Visalia currently has one facility of this nature which is used for instructional, competitive and public use. Any future needs in this area should be provided by private enterprise.

SWIMMING POOL

Currently we do not meet this standard. Future locations could be at the Golden West High School which could be funded by a joint powers agreement with city schools, a private interest group or grant monies. The YMCA also has indicated a plan to build a pool in the future. The City is currently meeting the recreational swimming interests for instruction and public swimming through the existing pools. There are a large number of private backyard pools, which has caused the swimming attendance of the public pools to decrease over the last few years.

GOLF COURSES

The City owns one facility and there are two other private facilities for public use. The existing standard is currently being met. The City's municipal course is operating at near capacity and an additional nine holes may be added over the next 5 years. Also, a private group may provide additional facilities in the future.

COMMUNITY CENTER

This need is currently being met with the senior citizen center and the recreation center. Long range plans are to take more programs to the people and this can be provided with the addition of satellite community centers in key locations of the city. Whitendale Park will be the next community center.

ARENA

Plaza Park currently meets the existing standards. The existing facility is in dire need of repair. A separate study is being done to assess the future need of this site.

GYMNASIUM

Currently this need is being met by 6 gymnasiums within the city and four of these facilities are available for program scheduling. The new mini-gym at Golden West has allowed for additional youth and adult leagues. The heavy use periods of play are from November to April. Basketball and volleyball are high use activities that are projected to continue to grow and a new facility will be needed within the next 5 years to meet these needs.

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

Presently two city facilities exist, the North Visalia Community Center and the Linwood Day Care Center. As City growth warrants future needs, consideration may be given to the northeast and southeast. Also, future programs should be provided in areas where people reside, to help conserve energy for transportation.

OUTDOOR THEATER

Two small theaters are located at Crestwood and Plaza Park. As interest in cultural activities expand, future facilities may be considered at Whitendale or Plaza Park.

SHOOTING RANGE

The City currently has one shooting range that adequately meets the needs of this community. Additional facilities could be developed by private interests as demand warrants.

NEIGHBORHOOD POOLS

Currently only one city facility is in existence, the remaining pools in the community are privately owned. From a realistic point, city owned pools lack the demand as found in larger communities. This is mainly due to larger number of privately owned pools.

AUDITORIUM

Presently, the L.J. Williams complex and the Convention Center meet the existing needs of the community. Future considerations will need to be addressed for larger type activities that cannot be provided as the city grows to 65-85,000. A joint powers or private enterprise could provide future facilities.

PUBLIC STADIUM

This presently is being met by the school district with Mineral King Bowl. A smaller facility has been developed at Mt. Whitney to meet the current demands. As the population grows, Golden West High School should be considered for a future facility.

PLAYFIELDS

The demand for this type of facility is currently being met. Between the schools and City this area should continue to be met as new schools and parks are developed with the population growth. As a conservation measure, the City is using a concept of developing ponding basins in new subdivisions to assist in meeting the future park needs.

ARCHERY

Presently no complete facility exists in this area, but schools do assist with instructional courses. Since the city is so close to the rural area, we do not see the need to provide city facilities in the future.

TRACK

Currently there are no standards for this type of facility. Four track sites do exist and presently meet the existing needs. As interest grows in this area, future sites should be set up through the school district. The new high school plans to provide an additional track in the future.

ROLLER SKATING

No standards exist for this activity, but the one existing facility presently meets our needs. As the city grows, additional rinks should be provided by private interest groups.

EQUESTRIAN CENTER

No standards currently exist for this use. Interest has been expressed by horse groups to locate a facility out at Plaza Park. There are many horse groups in the area and financing should be considered by private interest groups.

SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER

Visalia currently operates a 7,000 sq.ft. facility in the downtown area. Expansion of the center is needed to meet the growth demand for senior programs and services.

D. Major Leisure Service Providers in Visalia

The following organizations provide the bulk of leisure time activities in the Visalia area. The Leisure Services Department is continually evaluating what each agency offers and acts as a facilitator and catalyst to help meet community needs and interests.

ADULT EDUCATION - SCHOOLS

Classes in leisure programs such as crafts, fitness, cultural etc. have been offered in the past. Future programming could be reduced as funding is a concern. Classes for our seniors are currently being offered at the Senior Center through Adult Education.

A large variety of leisure classes and programs are held through the schools involving many youth and adults yearly. Close coordination between the City and schools has allowed us to plan together in helping meet many of the leisure needs of the community.

VISALIA YMCA

The local Visalia YMCA provides an extensive year-round program of leisure activities and services. Major activities include:

Youth-Adult Health Fitness

Day Care

Cultural Classes

Special Events-Activities

Sports Camps - Golf, Baseball, Basketball

Outdoor Summer Camp

A new facility has been added onto the existing facility. The first phase consists of a gymnasium 100X70, locker rooms, office, a fitness area, gymnastic area, exercise-dance floor and a fitness testing lab.

Existing facilities consists of a large multi-purpose hall, kitchen, three meeting rooms, offices, two day care areas, and a house adjacent to the facility, parking off street, and open space area.

The department is in constant contact with this agency to evaluate ways the city can assist in helping meet local community needs.

COMMERCIAL RECREATION

A growing interest in commercial recreation has developed over the past few years. Nationwide, these activities range from dude ranches, resorts to hunting guides, outfitter services, charter fishing boats, movies, bowling, golf courses, shooting reserves, cabin resorts, motels, tennis, swimming, clubhouses and etc.

Locally, there are a large number of private businesses offering recreation to the public for profit making purposes. These include; bowling, movies, ice skating, roller skating, karate, dance, private tennis-racketball club and more.

PRIVATE CLASSES

A wide variety of private programs exist locally that provide leisure activities to community residents in such classes as swim lessons, karate, health-fitness, dog obedience, music, cultural arts, drama, etc.

COLLEGE OF THE SEQUOIAS - SCHOOL DISTRICT

These agencies help plan activities for their own students, plus offer extended leisure service activities to the public. The City has established several joint-power agreements with the district that have been beneficial to the community.

School owned facilities have been designed and used for the educational programs of the community and by policy, have been available for community recreation. The school district and city staff meet separately to discuss facility coordination as well as technical and maintenance concerns.

CHURCHES

The Visalia area contains over 50 churches that provides a variety of leisure activities to its own membership in such areas as trips, sport activities, clubs, social functions, day camps, picnics, discussion groups etc.

VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

These agencies are non-governmental in nature, and are financed primarily by voluntary contributions, community chests, special fund-raising drives, annual memberships and fees for participation. Groups can consist of such organizations as the Boy and Girl Scouts, Boys Clubs, Camp Fire Girls, 4-H Clubs etc.

SPECIAL INTEREST ORGANIZATIONS

The Visalia area contains a large number of special interest groups that exist to provide a particularly leisure activity. Included in this group, are such organizations as; Bridge, Chess, Hobby Guild, Little League, Youth Soccer, Bobby Soxs Softball, Pop Warner Football, Babe Ruth, Tennis etc. The organizations and City staff work closely in facility coordination and in meeting the present and future needs of the organizations within the community.

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

Many social service agencies exist to provide much needed special service to community people. Major service providers include; Welfare, Health, Long Term Care, Alcoholic Anonymous, Salvation Army, Social Security, Cancer Society, Red Cross, Family Counseling, Self Help, Proteus, Legal Services, Emergency Aid and more.

The Department interacts with many of these agencies and works closely with them in helping to identify the many social service needs in the community.

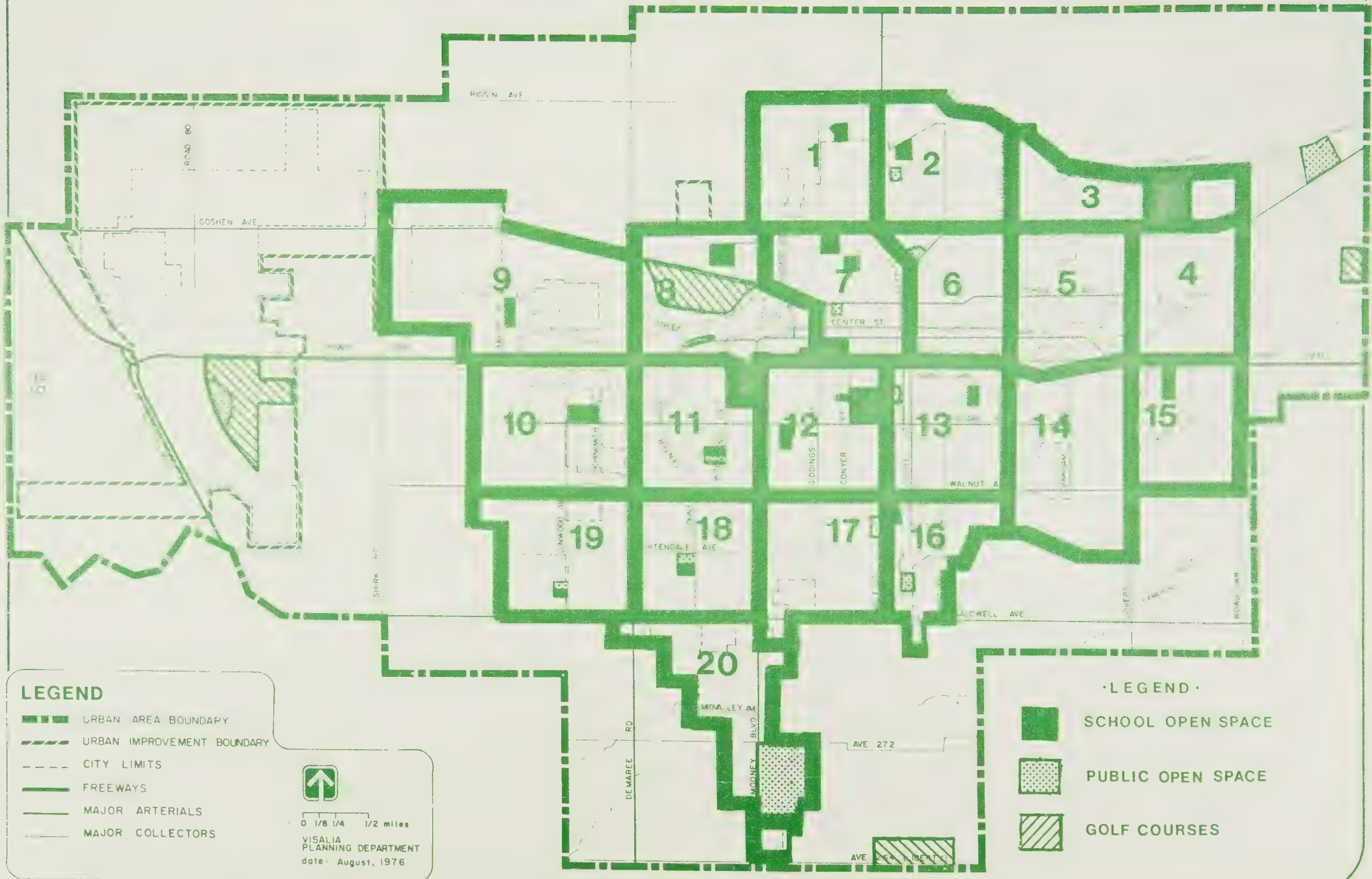
SERVICE AND CIVIC CLUBS

A multitude of service and civic clubs exist locally in Visalia and provide significant amount of service to the community.

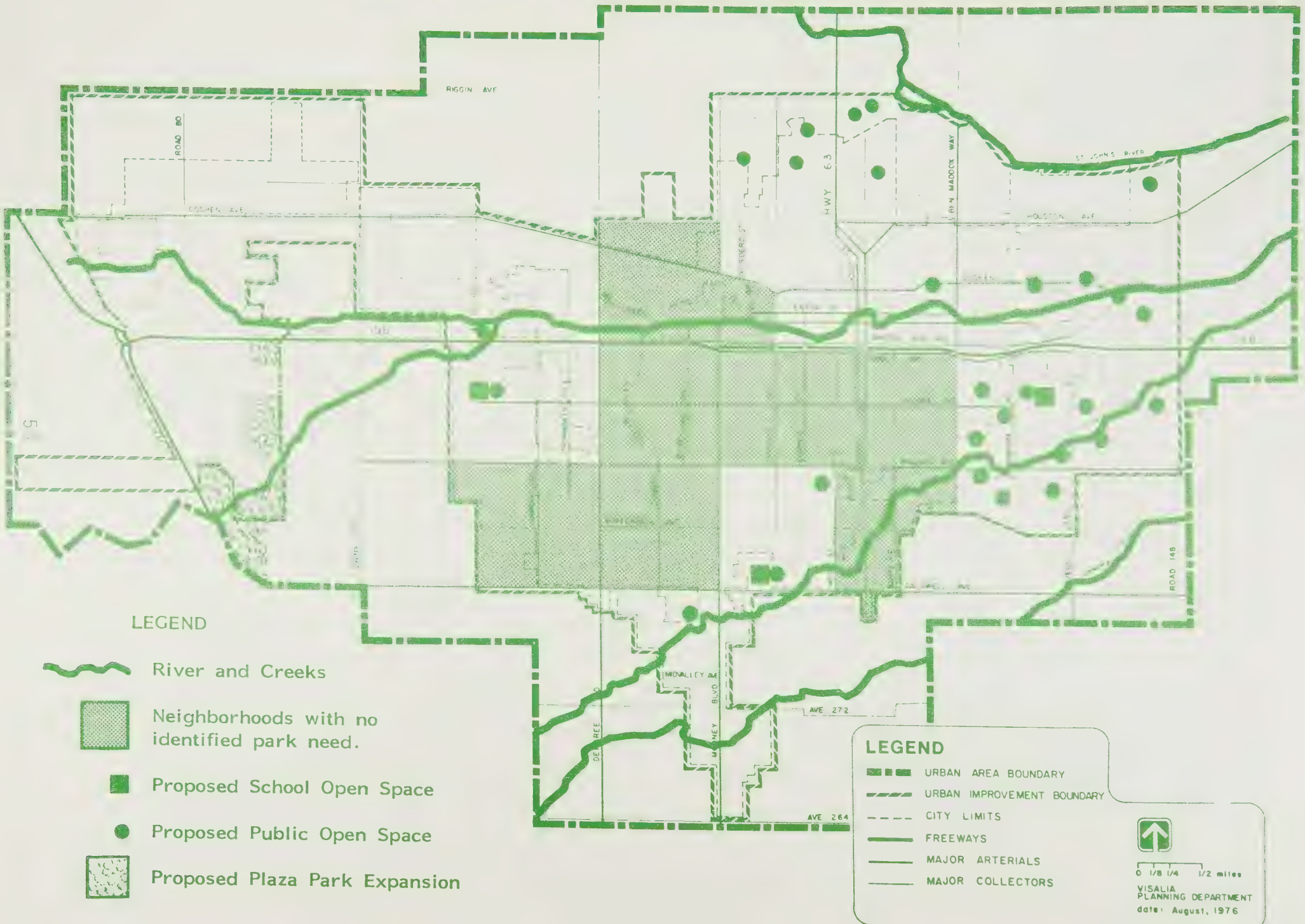
E. The Physical Plan

The process of master planning requires development of both a text and physical representation to describe the plan. This is included as the visual part of the plan. The master plan is classified into a few basic categories which specify private, public and school open space, plus river/creek areas.

Existing Open Space Area



Proposed Open Space Areas



COMMUNITY WIDE FACILITY INVENTORY

FACILITY	NATIONAL STANDARD	BASED ON CURRENT POP- ULATION (50,000) VISALIA'S NEEDS ARE:	EXISTING COMMUNITY WIDE FACILITIES				TOTAL 1981	TOTAL NEEDED IN 1985 BASED ON 65,000 POP.	TOTAL NEEDED IN 1990 BASED ON 85,000 POP.
			CITY	SCHOOL	PUBLIC/ PRIVATE	COUNTY			
Softball	1 per 3,000	16.6	4	72	0	0	76	21.6	28.3
Baseball	1 per 6,000	8.3	1	15	2	0	18	10.83	14.1
Football/Soccer	1 per 10,000	5.0	0	3	0	0	3	6.5	8.5
Handball - 3 wall	1 per 1,500	33.3	0	16	0	0	16	43.3	56.6
Handball - 4 wall	1 per 10,000	5	0	4	20	0	24	6.5	8.5
Basketball - Outdoor	1 per 500	100	6	83	0	0	89	130	170
Volleyball	-	-	5	66	0	0	71	-	-
Tennis	1 per 2,000	25	10	27	7	2	46	32.5	42.5
Ice Skating	1 per 30,000	1.6	0	0	1	0	1	2.1	2.8
Swim Pool	1 per 10,000	5	1	2	0	0	3	6.5	8.5
Golf Course	1 per 50,000	1	1	0	2	0	3	1.3	1.7
Community Center	1 per 25,000	2	2	0	0	0	2	2.6	3.4
Arena	1 per 50,000	1	1	0	0	0	1	1.3	1.7
Gymnasium	1 per 10,000	5	1	4	1	0	6	6.5	8.5
Neighborhood Center	1 per 10,000	5	2	0	0	0	2	6.5	8.5
Outdoor Theater	1 per 20,000	2.5	2	0	0	0	2	3.2	4.2
Shooting Range	1 per 50,000	1	1	0	0	0	1	1.3	1.5
Neighborhood Pool	1 per 5,000	10	1	0	0	0	1	13	17
Auditorium	1 per 20,000	2.5	2	1	0	0	3	3.2	4.2
Public Stadium	1 per 100,000	.5	0	2	0	0	2	.6	.8
Playfield	1 acre per 800	62.5	20	54	0	10	84	81.25	106.2
Archery	1 per 1,500	33.3	0	2	0	0	2	43.3	56.6
Track	-	-	0	4	0	0	4	-	-
Roller Skating	-	-	0	0	1	0	1	-	-

CITY OF VISALIA PARK INVENTORY	ACRES	OPEN GRASS AREA	RESTROOMS	PICNIC	TOT LOT	SOFTBALL/BASEBALL	BASKETBALL	TENNIS	VOLLEYBALL	FOOTBALL/SOCCER	POOL	FISHING	GOLF	ARENA	REC. CENTER	PARKING ON SITE	EQUESTRIAN TRAIL	INDIV. PICNIC SITE	OUTDOOR AMPHI- THEATER	INDOOR THEATER	AMUSEMENT AREA	SKATEBOARD FAC.
Plaza Park	32.0	X	X	6	2	4	0	8	2	1	0	X	X	X	0	X	0	X	X			
Rec. Park	18	X	X	3	X	2	2	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	X	X	0	X	X			
Summers	3.7	X	X	0	X	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	X	0	X				
Jefferson	3.5	X	X	0	X	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X				
Rotary	2.5	X	X	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X				
Soroptimist	2.5	X	X	0	X	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X				
Crestwood	2.0	X	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X				
Houk	2.4	X	X	0	X	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	X			
West Main	5.0	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X				
Linwood	4.8	X	0	0	X	X	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	X	0	X				
Lincoln Oval	.5	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X				
Mayor's	.6	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X				
Memorial	.12	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X				
The Garden	.25	0	0	0	X	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Ice House	3	X	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X				
Whitendale	10	X	X	X	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	X	0	X	0	X		X		
Packwood	8	X	X	X	X	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	X				
*Mooney Grove	150	X	X	22	3	3	0	2	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	X				
*Cutler Park	50	X	X	3	X	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	X				X

*These facilities are County Parks and lie within or adjacent to the City Limits.

SECTION 5



IMPLEMENTATION

SECTION V. IMPLEMENTATION

- A. Introduction - The implementation of a master plan must be made through cooperation between local governmental agencies, the school district and the residents of each neighborhood. Parks are provided as a service for people and if the City of Visalia is to adequately supply the demand then periodical determinations of the needs must be made by the city through local resident inputs.

The implementation of park developments must also correspond with other capital improvement programs within the area and must be phased along with other general plan elements.

- B. Financing, Acquisition & Development.

One of the greatest obstacles facing parks and recreation today and in the years to come is adequate financing. The competition for tax dollars is so intense that recreation and park agencies must develop more effective finance programs to meet community needs.

The need to find new and expanded sources of funds for the development and operation of recreation and parks is essential. There is no set pattern for developing an effective community finance program. Each agency and every community differs in needs, scope, environmental setting, funding required and resources available.

It is vital that there be cooperative and coordinated effort to adequately provide the park and recreation needs, in facilities and services for today and tomorrow.

The following are ways to help finance future facilities and programs will be explored and used where appropriate to help meet the continued demand to fund programs and services:

GRANTS- This type of funding can add greatly to department budgets to secure additional revenues to finance needed construction or to pay for new programming. Grants are available from both the State and Federal level.

LOANS - Loans are available from such sources as banks, insurance companies and saving and loan associations to help finance large capital projects.

LAND - City and County governments have long sought means for providing the new facilities necessitated by newcomers without overburdening the established residents. One method is to require the subdivider to dedicate a portion of the land or its equivalent value to the city as a condition precedent to the approval of the subdivision. Visalia has set this procedure up with the Quimby Act, which was started in 1977.

Other ways to acquire land is through eminent domain, zoning, condemnation and installment plan.

BONDS - Park revenue bonds are a series of bonds issued for money to be repaid in a specific length of time by revenue generated in facilities which pay for operations. Basically, they provide recreation facilities which would not have been possible otherwise and open many doors to help gain support for overall recreation programs and services.

REVENUE SHARING - Is a plan by which the Federal Government distributes a portion of revenues to state and cities to help finance needed projects.

JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT - Two or more public entities may enter into this agreement. The purpose is to provide the financing to do an activity that will be shared by the participating public entities.

SPECIAL DISTRICT - A district is formed to provide a special function for a specific area. This special function could be for park development and maintenance. To establish a district, it normally takes a petition by the owners of the assessable property and signed by not less than 25 percent representation of the assessed value of the land.

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION - This is very similar to the Special District, it normally is associated with planned residential projects and private parks. The private parks and any common open space is maintained by the homeowners association and each member is assessed a monthly fee.

THE QUIMBY ACT AND ITS APPLICATION TO ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT - In an effort to develop a policy which could be used by local government to equitably district the location of costs of recreation facilities, the State of California adopted Section 11546 of the Business and Professions Code. This code section is entitled "Dedication of land or payment of fees in lieu thereof for park or recreational purpose as conditions precedent to approval of a final map.

The City implemented the Quimby Act by adopting Ordinance 7844 in November, 1978. Section 7064 and 7065 of that ordinance provides the standards and formula for dedication of park land.

CITIZEN HELP - Recreation, parks and open spaces are primarily designed for people and many individuals want to get involved and be where the action is. There are some real benefits to be derived from making known projects that people would like to support and feel a part of the total project.

FEES - CHARGES - With tax rates soaring and governmental costs increasing, the practice of partial financing of public parks and recreation services by using revenue generating facilities has become more appealing. Fees are one technique that can be used to increase inadequate tax budgets and contribute funds that can be utilized to expand public services.

CONCESSION - Many park and recreation authorities believe that the best practice for increasing the budget is through private concessionaires or operating their own concessions.

Concessions come in a wide variety of shapes and forms like miniature railroads, public riding stables, mini golf courses, electric golf carts, marinas, boat rentals, food concessions and etc. One can either run their own concession or lease it out and relieve the department of the extra responsibilities of maintenance and operation.

GIFT - Basically gifts come from foundations and individuals. A request can be made for a gift from an existing foundation or a foundation can be set up for the express purpose of soliciting funds. Currently the City has established a gift catalog to seek gifts from individuals in the community to help support special interest projects.

OTHER METHODS OF FINANCING -

1. Entrance fees are charged to enter large parks or other developed recreation facilities.
2. Admission fees are usually related to a building that offers an exhibit, ceremony or demonstration.
3. Rental fees are payments made for the privilege of using recreation equipment or property.
4. User fees are charges made for use of a facility, participation in an activity, or fares for a controlled ride.

OTHER IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

- Adopt special use and development standards for historic areas, sites and structures.
- Zone land within scenic highway corridors for compatible uses (eg. agriculture, open space, special design standards.
- Special sign control standards.
- Prepare detailed scenic highway corridor plans and programs.
- Establish capital improvement program for the public purchase and improvement of parks.
- Adopt a new zone district for the preservation of natural resource and conservation areas. (Streams, ditches, sloughs, old waterways, etc).

SECTION 6



ENVIROMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

SECTION VI. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

I. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

- A. Action to be taken: The proposed action pertains to the adoption of the amendment to the Conservation, Open Space, and Recreation and Park Element of the City of Visalia General Plan. The plan outlines the existing recreation service, needs and facilities and proposes future short term and long range improvements.
- B. Study Area Boundaries: In order to plan on a long range scale it is necessary to identify a study area within which future development (thus demand for recreational facilities) will occur. There are two boundary lines encompassing the City of Visalia which are co-terminus and are known as the Sphere of Influence (established and managed by the Tulare County Local Agency Formation Commission) and the Urban Area Boundary (which has been adopted by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors and the Visalia City Council). The Urban Area Boundary and Sphere of Influence identify the area within which all ultimate growth is to occur, therefore, this boundary line is used as the study area boundary. The City has also been divided into twenty neighborhoods and the needs of each area will be analyzed.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The policies proposed within the plan amendment commit land resources to partial development for recreational uses. Specific sites have been delineated within the short range plan and future park sites have been schematically located at the center of future neighborhoods within the neighborhood study areas.

The development of the parks which have been proposed will cause an additional loading of access routes and will correspondingly impact the residential neighborhoods which surround them.

The development of future park sites will destroy any natural vegetation which may exist at the time of development, however, such degradation will be substantially reduced since most of the land will be developed in agricultural uses prior to park construction. While some detriment to natural vegetation will occur through park development, a park will represent the least damaging of all urban land uses and will, by its nature, attempt to preserve as much natural vegetation as possible.

The development of parks will have no substantial effect upon the recharge capacity of the soil due to their open, landscaped character.

The preservation of historic sites is a policy contained within the general plan amendment and thus promotes protection of our heritage which is considered a positive environmental impact.

The development of parks and drainage ponds on the same site is considered a positive environmental impact, in that it is conserving land.

The General Plan amendment addresses the concept of open space and recommends programs for planning and protection of open space resources. All policies and statements relating to open space are considered to be of a positive environmental nature.

The protection and enhancement of scenic areas is of prime concern to the City of Visalia and the amendment to the Conservation, Open Space and Recreation Element recognizes the need to protect scenic areas.

III. ANY ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED IF THE PROPOSAL IS IMPLEMENTED

The primary adverse environmental impact which this project generates is an increase in local traffic and an increase in population, concentrated within certain areas on an irregular basis. The adverse impacts as stated above are true of all park developments and will occur within any given area of the City. The general plan amendment specifically sites some parks which are to be developed within a short range time plan and future neighborhood parks are shown for development as the need is generated. The placement of all future park facilities will occur near residential areas, therefore, the adverse impact of increased local traffic and population concentrations will occur. Alternative sites which could avoid the residential impact would, at the same time, cause additional problems of access and availability for neighborhood residents.

IV. MITIGATION RESOURCES PROPOSED TO MINIMIZE THE IMPACT

While neighborhood parks should be located within easy access of all neighborhood residents the problems of increased traffic loads on residential streets can be mitigated through design and placement of collector streets along the periphery of the park sites.

V. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

One alternative to the proposed action would be to develop no future parks, which would have a detrimental environmental impact upon the urban area.

Another alternative is to develop only a portion of the proposed future parks which would have the effect of reducing the amount of recreation land per-capita below the average which the general plan has established as adequate to satisfy the needs of local residents.

The third alternative is to develop more parkland than has been proposed which would have a detrimental economic effect upon the City and could jeopardize the entire park and recreation program.

VI. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SHORT TERM USES OF MANS' ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG TERM PRODUCTIVITY

The General Plan Amendment proposes two development plans; one for short term uses and another for long range uses. The two plans address the rate

of park and recreation facilities development and separate those parks which can be specifically identified and developed over a period of 10 years and future park facilities which cannot be specifically located at the present and represent all future park development which is to occur within the urban area boundary. The long range plan has been developed to satisfy the future demand for recreation facilities and programs as the City continues to grow and expand. The rate and location of future park development will be related to the availability of land and the rate and direction of future urban expansion.

VII. AND IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED

As stated and discussed within the section on "Environmental Impact of the Proposed Action," the adoption of the general plan amendment will cause the detrimental environmental impact of loss of antural vegetation, increased traffic loads on residential streets, and increased congregations of population within concentrated areas adjacent to residential uses. All of the adverse environmental impacts of the proposed action are heavily outweighed by the positive environmental impacts which are as follows:

- a. Preservation of scenic areas.
- b. Preservation of open space.
- c. Preservation of ground water recharge areas.
- d. Development of recreational resources for human enjoyment.
- e. Preservation and enhancement of historic sites.
- f. Preservation of open areas for wildlife.
- g. Preservation of natural water resources.
- h. Preservation of natural open space areas for passive recreation
- i. Development of parks and drainage pond on the same land, thus conserving land.

VIII. THE GROWTH INDUCING IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The implementation of this general plan amendment will not generate any population growth. Conversely, the population growth rate will determine the park development rate and will have a tremendous impact upon the implementation of the plan.

SECTION 7



REFERENCES & SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

SECTION VII References and Selected Bibliography

- Visalia Leisure Services Department staff
- California Parks and Recreation Society
- David Grey, Cal State University at Long Beach
- Dr. Seymour Gold, University of California, Davis
- H. Douglas Sessions, Chairman, Recreation Administration, University of N. Carolina
- Robert Toalson, General Manager, Champion, Illinois Park District
- The Recreation Imperative, The Nationwide Outdoor Recreation Plan, U.S. Department of Interior 1974
- California Outdoor Recreation Resources Plan, Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento, CA 1974
- Recreation, Parks and Leisure Services
Geoffrey Godbey, W.B. Saunders Co. 1978
- Recreation Today, Richard Kraus, Goodyear Pub-Co. 1978
- Managing Leisure Services, International City Management Association, Sidney Lutzin, New York 1980
- 1974 Conservation, Open Space/Parks & Recreation Element, City of Visalia
- 1976 Land Use and Circulation Element, City of Visalia
- 1980 Downtown Plan, City of Visalia
- 1979 Visalia Growth Study
- Surveys conducted by the Leisure Services Department, City of Visalia

SECTION 8



RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF VISALIA, COUNTY OF TULARE, ADOPTING THE
PROPOSED CONSERVATION, OPEN SPACE, RECREATION
AND PARK ELEMENT. AN AMENDMENT TO THE VISALIA CITY
GENERAL PLAN

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the need to plan for the future
growth of Visalia; and

WHEREAS, the City Council did hold public hearings, on September 8, 1981
and _____ for the proposal, and

WHEREAS, on Sept. 8, 1981 the City Council did adopt the proposed
Conservation, Open Space, Recreation and Park Element amendment to the Visalia
General Plan, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that on September 8, 1981, the
City Council did adopt the proposed Conservation, Open Space, Recreation
and Park Element of the General Plan.

Councilperson Collins offered the motion to this resolution,
Councilperson Pryor seconded the motion and it carried by the
following vote:

Ayes: Collins, Pryor, Johnson

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Peterson, Fiala

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF VISALIA, COUNTY OF TULARE, ADOPTING
THE PROPOSED CONSERVATION, OPEN SPACE, RECREATION
AND PARK ELEMENT. AN AMENDMENT TO THE VISALIA
CITY GENERAL PLAN

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission recognizes the need to plan for
the future growth of Visalia; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission did hold a public hearing on
for the proposal, and

WHEREAS, on August 10, 1981 the Planning Commission did recommend
adoption of the proposed Conservation, Open Space, Recreation and Park
Element amendment to the Visalia General Plan to the Visalia City Council,
and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that on August 10, 1981, the
Planning Commission did adopt the proposed Conservation, Open Space, Recreation
and Park Element of the General Plan.

Commissioner Chrisman offered the motion to this resolution,
Commissioner Vivier seconded the motion and it carried by the
following vote:

Ayes: Chrisman, Vivier, Vidak, Alvarado

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Pearson

RESOLUTION NO.

RESOLUTION OF THE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF VISALIA, COUNTY OF TULARE, ADOPTING
THE PROPOSED CONSERVATION, OPEN SPACE, RECREATION
AND PARK ELEMENT. AN AMENDMENT TO THE VISALIA CITY
GENERAL PLAN

WHEREAS, the Park and Recreation Commission recognizes the need to plan for the future growth of Visalia; and

WHEREAS, the Park and Recreation Commission did hold public hearings, on April 28th and May 19th for the proposal, and

WHEREAS, on May 19, 1981 the Park and Recreation Commission did recommend adoption of the proposed Conservation, Open Space, Recreation and Park Element amendment to the Visalia General Plan to the Visalia City Council, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that on _____ the Park and Recreation Commission did adopt the proposed Conservation, Open Space, Recreation and Park Element of the General Plan.

Commissioner Glass offered the motion to this resolution, Commissioner Schweers seconded the motion and it carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Breedlove, Glass, Schweers

Noes: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Garcia and Vivier

VISALIA CITY COUNCIL

Pete Peterson, Mayor
Berkley Johnson, Vice Mayor
Greg Collins
Bonnel Pryor
Alan McIntosh

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

All Pearson, Chairperson
Steve Chrisman
Mary Louise Vivier
Jim Vidak
Pete Alvarado

CITY PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

Sandy Breedlove, Chairperson
Vince Schweers
Dean Glass
Terry Oldershaw
Mike Olmos

CITY STAFF

City Manager, Ted Gaebler

LEISURE SERVICES

Eunice Riso, Director
Al Echhoff, Supt. of Leisure Services
Donna Bailey, Supt. of Leisure Services
Chuck Woupio, Recreation Services Manager

PLANNING

Greg Dowds, Community Development Dir.
Robert Hamar, Planner III

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